

**Rules of the
Montana Legislature
with the
Montana Constitution
Declaration of Independence
U.S. Constitution
62nd Legislative Session
2011**



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DEADLINES

62ND LEGISLATURE — 2011

1st - 45th Legislative Days

Leg. Day — Date	Leg. Day — Date	Leg. Day — Date
Bill Draft Requests Except for Revenue and Appropriation Bills*	Bill Draft Requests for Committee Bills and Resolutions*	Transmittal of General Bills and Resolutions
12th Day — January 17	17th Day — January 22	45th Day — February 24

Transmittal Break
February 25 - February 28

*Introduction deadline is 2 days after bill is received by requestor.

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Adopted
January 2011

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Joint Rules (White Section)

CHAPTER 10 — Administration

10-10. Time of meeting	3
10-20. Legislative day — duration	3
10-30. Schedules	3
10-40. Adjournment — recess — meeting place.	3
10-50. Access of media — registration — decorum — sanctions	3
10-60. Conflict of interest	3
10-70. Telephone calls and internet access	4
10-80. Joint employees	4
10-85. Harassment prohibited — reporting	4
10-90. Legislative interns	5
10-100. Legislative Services Division	5
10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff — duties.	5
10-130. Bills — sponsorship — style — format — withdrawal prohibited	6
10-140. Voting on bills — constitutional amendments .	7
10-150. Recording and publication of voting	7
10-160. Journal	8
10-170. Journals — authentication — availability . . .	8

CHAPTER 20 — Relations with Other House

20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess	9
--	---

CHAPTER 30 — Committees

30-10. Joint committee chair — exception	10
30-20. Voting in joint committees — exception	10
30-30. Conference committees — subject matter restrictions	10
30-40. Conference committee — enrolling	11
30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills	11
30-60. Estimation of revenue	11
30-70. Appointment of interim committees	11

CHAPTER 40 — Legislation

40-10. Amendment to state constitution	14
40-20. Appropriation bills — introduction in House — feed bill	14
40-30. Effective dates.	14
40-40. Bill requests and introduction — limits and procedures — drafting priority — agency and committee bills	14
40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction	17
40-60. Joint resolutions	17

40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies	18
40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes	18
40-80. Reproduction of full statute required	18
40-90. Bills — original purpose	19
40-100. Fiscal notes	19
40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal	20
40-120. Substitute bills	21
40-130. Reading of bills	21
40-140. Second reading — bill reproduction	21
40-150. Engrossing	22
40-160. Enrolling	22
40-170. Amendment by second house	23
40-180. Final action on a bill	24
40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses — referral — hearing	24
40-200. Transmittal deadlines — two-thirds vote requirement	24
40-210. Governor's veto	25
40-220. Response to Governor's veto	26
40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment — procedure	26

CHAPTER 60 — Rules

60-10. Suspension of joint rule — change in rules . . .	28
60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual	28
60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules . . .	28
60-40. Tenure of joint rules	28

Senate Rules (Pink Section)

CHAPTER 1 — Administration

S10-10. Officers of the Senate	31
S10-20. Term of office	31
S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other officers	31
S10-40. Voting by presiding officer	31
S10-50. Presiding officer and duties	31
S10-60. Succession	32
S10-70. President-elect	32
S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties	32
S10-90. Majority Leader	33
S10-100. Majority Whip	33
S10-110. Minority Leader	33
S10-120. Minority Whip	33
S10-130. Senate employees	34
S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties	34
S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties	34

S10-160. Legislative aides	35
S10-170. Senate journal	35
CHAPTER 2 — Decorum	
S20-10. Questions of order — appeal	37
S20-20. Violation of rules — call to order — appeal . .	37
S20-30. Questions of privilege — restrictions	37
S20-40. Recognition by chair	37
S20-50. Floor privileges	38
S20-60. Communications to Senate	38
S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor — exception	38
CHAPTER 3 — Committees	
S30-10. Committee appointments	39
S30-20. Standing committees — classification	39
S30-40. Ex officio members — quorum	40
S30-50. Chair's duties	40
S30-60. Meetings — notice — purpose — minutes . .	41
S30-70. Procedures — member privileges	42
S30-80. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions	44
S30-100. Pairs prohibited — absentee or proxy voting	44
S30-140. Reconsideration in committee	44
S30-150. Committee requested legislation	45
S30-160. Ethics Committee	45
CHAPTER 4 — Legislation	
S40-10. Types of legislation	46
S40-20. Introduction — first reading	46
S40-30. Additional sponsors	47
S40-40. Reading limitations	47
S40-60. Scheduling for second reading	47
CHAPTER 5 — Floor Action	
S50-10. Attendance — mandatory voting — quorum .	48
S50-20. Orders of business	48
S50-30. Limitations on debate	48
S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion	49
S50-50. Precedence of motions	49
S50-60. Nondebatable motions	49
S50-70. Amending motions — restrictions	50
S50-80. Previous question	50
S50-90. Reconsideration — time restrictions	50
S50-100. Dividing a question — segregation excluded	51
S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a majority vote	51
S50-120. Committee reports to Senate — reconsideration	52

S50-130. Conference committee — reports	52
S50-140. Second reading — Committee of the Whole report — segregation — rejection	53
S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments	53
S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole	53
S50-170. Committee of the Whole — generally	54
S50-180. Voting on second reading — positive disposition of motions	54
S50-190. Third reading procedure	54
S50-200. Senate voting — changing a vote — objection	55
S50-210. Pairs — Committee of the Whole restriction	55
S50-220. Call of the Senate	56
S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation	56
S50-240. Governor's amendments	56
S50-250. Governor's veto	57
CHAPTER 6 — Rules	
S60-10. Senate rules — amendment — adoption — suspension	58
S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure	58
CHAPTER 7 — Nominations from the Governor	
S70-10. Nominations	59
S70-20. Introduction and first reading of nominations	59
S70-30. Committee process — preliminary reports — separate consideration	59
Appendix A.	61

House Rules (Green Section)

CHAPTER 1 — Administration	
H10-10. House officers — definitions	65
H10-20. Speaker's duties	65
H10-30. Speaker-elect	66
H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties	66
H10-50. Majority Leader	66
H10-60. Majority Whip	66
H10-70. Minority Leader	67
H10-80. Minority Whip	67
H10-90. Employees	67
H10-100. Chief Clerk's duties	67
H10-110. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms	68
H10-120. Legislative aides	68
H10-130. Legislative interns	69
H10-140. House journal	69
H10-150. Votes recorded and public	70

H10-160. Duration of legislative day	70
CHAPTER 2 — Decorum	
H20-10. Addressing the House — recognition	71
H20-20. Questions of order and privilege — appeal — restrictions	71
H20-30. Limits on lobbying	71
H20-40. Admittance to the House floor	71
H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions — appeal	72
H20-60. Lobbying by employees — sanctions	72
H20-70. Papers distributed on desks — exceptions . . .	72
H20-80. Violation of rules — procedure — appeal . . .	72
CHAPTER 3 — Committees	
H30-10. House standing committees — appointments — classification	73
H30-20. Chairman's duties	74
H30-30. Quorum — officers as members	74
H30-40. Meetings — purpose — notice — minutes . . .	75
H30-50. Procedures — absentee or proxy voting — member privileges	76
H30-60. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions	78
CHAPTER 4 — Legislation	
H40-10. Introduction deadlines	79
H40-20. House resolutions	79
H40-30. Cosponsors	79
H40-40. Introduction — receipt — messages from Senate and elected officials	79
H40-50. First reading — receipt of Senate legislation	80
H40-60. One reading per day — exception	80
H40-70. Referral	80
H40-80. Rereferral — normal progression	80
H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee	81
H40-100. Standing committee reports — requirement for rejection of adverse committee report	81
H40-110. Consent calendar procedure	81
H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote	82
H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas — vote requirements	82
H40-140. Second reading — timing — obverse vote on failed motion — status of amendments — rejection of report — segregation	82
H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole — timing — official records	83

H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole — quorum required.	84
H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole	84
H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill — sections — amendments	85
H40-190. Engrossing	85
H40-200. Third reading	86
H40-210. Senate legislation in the House	86
H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation	86
H40-230. Conference committee reports	86
H40-240. Enrolling	87
H40-250. Governor's amendments	87
H40-260. Governor's veto	88

CHAPTER 5 — Floor Actions

H50-10. Attendance — excuse — call of the House	89
H50-20. Quorum	89
H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum	89
H50-40. Call of the House with a quorum	89
H50-50. Leave with cause during call of the House.	90
H50-60. Opening and order of business	90
H50-70. Motions.	90
H50-80. Limits on debate of debatable motions.	91
H50-90. Nondebatable motions.	91
H50-100. Questions	91
H50-110. Amending motions — limitations.	92
H50-120. Substitute motions	92
H50-130. Withdrawing motions	92
H50-140. Dividing a question	92
H50-150. Previous question — close.	93
H50-160. Questions requiring other than a majority vote	93
H50-170. Reconsideration — time restriction	94
H50-180. Renewing procedural motions.	95
H50-190. Tabling	95
H50-200. Voting — conflict of interest — present by electronic means.	95
H50-210. Changing a vote — consent required	95
H50-220. Absentee votes — restrictions.	96
H50-230. Recess.	96
H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day	96
H50-250. Adjournment sine die	96

CHAPTER 6 — Motions

H60-10. Proposal for consideration.	97
H60-20. Nondebatable motions.	97
H60-30. Motions allowed during debate.	97
H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess.	98

H60-50. Motion to table	98
H60-60. Motion to postpone	98
H60-70. Motion to refer	98
H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer	98
H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table	98
H60-110. Standard motions	99
CHAPTER 7 — Rules	
H70-10. House rules — amendment — report timing	100
H70-20. Tenure of rules	100
H70-30. Suspension of rules	100
H70-40. Supplementary rules	100
H70-50. Interpreting rules — appeal	100
H70-60. Joint rules superseded	100
Appendix.	101
Index to Rules (Ivory Section)	105
The Constitution of the State of Montana (Blue Section)	161
Index to the Constitution of the State of Montana (Blue Section)	199
Declaration of Independence (Gray Section).	221
The U.S. Constitution (Gray Section)	229
Index to the U.S. Constitution (Gray Section)	255



JOINT RULES

CHAPTER 10

Administration

10-10. Time of meeting. Each house may order its time of meeting.

10-20. Legislative day — duration. (1) If either house is in session on a given day, that day constitutes a legislative day.

(2) A legislative day for a house ends either 24 hours after that house convenes for the day or at the time the house convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier.

10-30. Schedules. The presiding officer of each house shall coordinate its schedule to accommodate the workload of the other house.

10-40. Adjournment — recess — meeting place. A house may not, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than 3 days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10(5)). The procedure for obtaining consent is contained in Joint Rule 20-10.

10-50. Access of media — registration — decorum — sanctions. (1) Subject to the presiding officer's discretion on issues of decorum and order, a registered media representative may not be prohibited from photographing, televising, or recording a legislative meeting or hearing.

(2) The presiding officer shall authorize the issuance of cards to media representatives to allow floor access, and media representatives holding the cards are subject to placement on the floor by the presiding officer. The presiding officer may delegate enforcement of this rule to the office of the Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House, the respective Sergeant-at-Arms, or the Legislative Information Officer. The privilege may be revoked or suspended for a violation of decorum and order as agreed to by the media representative upon application for registration.

(3) Registered media representatives may be subject to seating in designated areas. Overflow access will be in the gallery.

10-60. Conflict of interest. A member who has a personal or private interest in any measure or bill proposed or pending before the Legislature shall disclose the fact to the house to which the member belongs. (section 2-2-112, MCA)

10-70. Telephone calls and internet access. (1) Long-distance telephone calls made by a member while the Legislature is in session or while the member is in travel status are considered official legislative business. These include but are not limited to calls made to constituencies, places of business, and family members. A member's access to the internet through a permissible server is a proper use of the state communication system if the use is for legislative business or is within the scope of permissible use of long-distance telephone calls.

(2) Session staff, including aides and interns, may use telephones for long-distance calls only if specifically authorized to do so by their legislative sponsor or supervisor. Sponsoring members and supervisors are accountable for use of state telephones and internet access by their staff, including aides and interns, and may not authorize others to use state phones or state servers to access the internet.

(3) Permanent staff of the Legislature shall comply with executive branch rules applying to the use of state telephones.

10-80. Joint employees. The presiding officers of each house, acting together, shall:

(1) hire joint employees; and

(2) review a dispute or complaint involving the competency or decorum of a joint employee, and dismiss, suspend, or retain the employee.

10-85. Harassment prohibited — reporting. (1) Legislators and legislative employees have the right to work free of harassment on account of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or religious ideas when performing services in furtherance of legislative responsibilities, whether the offender is an employer, employee, legislator, lobbyist, or member of the public.

(2) A violation of this policy must be reported to the party leader in the appropriate house if the offended party is a legislator or to the presiding officer if the offended party is the party leader. The presiding officer may refer the matter to the rules committee of the applicable house, and the offender is subject to discipline or censure, as appropriate.

(3) If the offended party is an employee of the house of representatives or the senate, the violation must be reported to the employee's supervisor or, if the offender is the supervisor for the house of representatives or the senate, the report should be made to the chief clerk of the house of representatives or to the secretary of the senate, as appropriate. If the offended party is a permanent legislative

employee, the report should be made to the employee's supervisor or, if the offender is the supervisor, to the appropriate division director. If the offender is a division director, the report should be made to the presiding officer of the appropriate statutory committee.

(4) If the offended party is a supervisor for the house of representatives or the senate, the violation must be reported to the chief clerk of the house of representatives or to the secretary of the senate, as appropriate. If the offended party is a supervisor of permanent legislative employees, the violation must be reported to the appropriate division director. If the offender is a division director, the report should be made to the presiding officer of the appropriate statutory committee.

(5) The chief clerk or the secretary shall report the violation to the presiding officer. The presiding officer may refer the matter to the rules committee. If the offender is an employee or supervisor, the employee or supervisor is subject to discipline or discharge.

10-90. Legislative interns. Qualifications for legislative interns are specified in Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

10-100. Legislative Services Division. (1) The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall serve both houses as required.

(2) Staff members shall:

- (a) maintain personnel files for legislative employees; and
- (b) prepare payrolls for certification and signature by the presiding officer and prepare a monthly financial report.

(3) The Legislative Services Division shall train journal clerks for both houses.

10-120. Engrossing and enrolling staff — duties. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall provide all engrossing and enrolling staff.

(2) The duties of the engrossing and enrolling staff are:

(a) to engross or enroll any bill or resolution delivered to them within 48 hours after it has been received, unless further time is granted in writing by the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated; and

(b) to correct clerical errors, absent the objection of the sponsor of a bill, resolution, or amendment and the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives in any bill or amendment originating in the house by which the Clerk or Secretary is employed. The following kinds of clerical errors may be corrected:

- (i) errors in spelling;
- (ii) errors in numbering sections;
- (iii) additions or deletions of underlining or lines through matter to be stricken;
- (iv) material copied incorrectly from the Montana Code Annotated;
- (v) errors in outlining or in internal references;
- (vi) an error in a title caused by an amendment;
- (vii) an error in a catchline caused by an amendment;
- (viii) errors in references to the Montana Code Annotated;
- and
- (ix) other nonconformities of an amendment with Bill Drafting Manual form.

(3) The engrossing and enrolling staff shall give notice in writing of the clerical correction to the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, who shall give notice to the sponsor of the bill or amendment. The form must be filed in the office of the amendments coordinator. A party receiving notice may register an objection to the correction by filing the objection in writing with the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House by the end of the next legislative day following receipt of the notice. The Senate or House shall vote on whether or not to uphold the objection. If the objection is upheld, the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative Services Division, and the engrossing staff shall change the bill to remove the correction or corrections to which the objection was made.

(4) For the purposes of this rule, “engrossing” means placing amendments in a bill.

10-130. Bills — sponsorship — style — format — withdrawal prohibited. (1) A bill must be sponsored by a member of the Legislature.

(2) A bill must be:

- (a) printed on paper with numbered lines;
- (b) numbered at the foot of each page (except page 1);
- (c) backed with a page of substantial material that includes spaces for notations for tracking the progress of the bill; and
- (d) introduced. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

(3) In a section amending an existing statute, matter to be stricken out must be indicated with a line through the words or part to be deleted, and new matter must be underlined.

(4) Sections of the Montana Code Annotated repealed or amended in a bill must be stated in the title.

(5) Introduced bills must be reproduced on white paper and distributed to members.

(6) An introduced bill may not be withdrawn.

10-140. Voting on bills — constitutional amendments.

(1) A bill may not become a law except by vote of the constitutionally required majority of all the members present and voting in each house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)). On final passage, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names of those voting entered on the journal (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)).

(2) Any vote in one house on a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote.

(3) This rule does not prevent a committee from tabling a bill proposing an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana.

10-150. Recording and publication of voting. (1) Every vote of each member on each substantive question in the Legislature, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made available to the public. On final passage of any bill or joint resolution, the vote must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(2) (a) Roll call votes must be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal on adopting an adverse committee report and on those motions made in Committee of the Whole to:

(i) amend;

(ii) recommend passage or nonpassage;

(iii) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence; or

(iv) indefinitely postpone.

(b) The text of all proposed amendments in Committee of the Whole must be recorded.

(3) A roll call vote must be taken on nonsubstantive questions on the request of two members who may, on any

vote, request that the ayes and noes be spread upon the journal.

(4) Roll call votes and other votes that are to be made public but are not specifically required to be spread upon the journal must be entered in the minutes of the appropriate committee or of the appropriate house (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(2)). A copy of the minutes must be filed with the Montana Historical Society. If electronically recorded minutes are kept for a committee, a written log conforming to section 2-3-212(2), MCA, must also be kept.

10-160. Journal. Each house shall:

(1) supply the Legislative Services Division with the contents of the daily journal to be stored on an automated system;

(2) examine its journal and order correction of any errors; and

(3) make a daily journal available to all members.

10-170. Journals — authentication — availability. (1) The journal of the Senate must be authenticated by the signature of the President and the journal of the House of Representatives must be authenticated by the signature of the Speaker.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make the completed journals available to the public (sections 5-11-201 through 5-11-203, MCA).

CHAPTER 20

Relations With Other House

20-10. Consent for adjournment or recess. As required by Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, the consent of the other house is required for adjournment or recess for more than 3 calendar days. Consent for adjournment is obtained by having the house wishing to adjourn send a message to the other house and having the receiving house vote favorably on the request. The receiving house shall inform the requesting house of its consent or lack of consent. Consent is not required on or after the 87th legislative day.

CHAPTER 30

Committees

30-10. Joint committee chair — exception. Except as provided in Joint Rule 30-50 concerning the joint meetings of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the chair of the Senate committee is the chair of all joint committees.

30-20. Voting in joint committees — exception. (1) Except for Rules Committees and conference committees, a member of a joint committee votes individually and not by the house to which the committee member belongs.

(2) Because the Rules Committees and conference committees are joint meetings of separate committees, in those committees the committees from each house vote separately. A majority of each committee shall agree before any action may be taken, unless otherwise specified by individual house rules.

30-30. Conference committees — subject matter restrictions. (1) If either house requests a conference committee and appoints a committee for the purpose of discussing an amendment on which the two houses cannot agree, the other house shall appoint a committee for the same purpose. The time and place of all conference committee meetings must be agreed upon by their chairs and announced from the rostrum. This announcement is in order at any time. Failure to make this announcement does not affect the validity of the legislation being considered. A conference committee meeting must be conducted as an open meeting, and minutes of the meeting must be kept.

(2) A conference committee, having conferred, shall report to the respective houses the result of its conference. A conference committee shall confine itself to consideration of the disputed amendment. The committee may recommend:

(a) acceptance or rejection of each disputed amendment in its entirety; or

(b) further amendment of the disputed amendment.

(3) If either house requests a free conference committee and the other house concurs, appointments must be made in the same manner as provided in subsection (1). A free conference committee may discuss and propose amendments to a bill in its entirety and is not confined to a particular amendment. However, a free conference committee is limited to consideration of amendments that are within the scope of the title of the introduced bill.

30-40. Conference committee — enrolling. A conference committee report must give clerical instructions for a corrected reference bill and for enrolling by referring to the reference bill version.

30-50. Committee consideration of general appropriation bills. (1) All general appropriation bills must first be considered by a joint subcommittee composed of designated members of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, and then by each committee separately.

(2) Joint meetings of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance and Claims Committee must be held upon call of the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, who is chair of the joint committee.

(3) The committee chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee or of the House Appropriations Committee may be a voting member in the joint subcommittees if:

(a) either house has fewer members on the joint subcommittees;

(b) the chair represents the house with fewer members on the subcommittees; and

(c) the chair is present for the vote at the time that a question is called. A vote may not be held open to facilitate voting by a chair.

30-60. Estimation of revenue. The Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee shall introduce a House joint resolution for the purpose of estimating revenue that may be available for appropriation by the Legislature. (5-5-227, MCA)

30-70. Appointment of interim committees. As provided for in section 5-5-211(6), MCA, 50% of interim committees must be selected from the following legislative standing committees:

(1) Economic Affairs Interim Committee:

(a) Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation Committee;

(b) Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee;

(c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(d) House Agriculture Committee;

(e) House Business and Labor Committee;

(f) House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee; and

(g) House Appropriations Committee;

(2) Education and Local Government Interim Committee:

(a) Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee;

(b) Senate Local Government Committee;

(c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(d) House Education Committee;

(e) House Local Government Committee; and

(f) House Appropriations Committee;

(3) Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee:

(a) Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee;

(b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(c) House Human Services Committee; and

(d) House Appropriations Committee;

(4) Law and Justice Interim Committee:

(a) Senate Judiciary Committee;

(b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(c) House Judiciary Committee; and

(d) House Appropriations Committee;

(5) Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee:

(a) Senate Taxation Committee;

(b) Senate Highways and Transportation Committee;

(c) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(d) House Taxation Committee;

(e) House Transportation Committee; and

(f) House Appropriations Committee;

(6) State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee:

(a) Senate State Administration Committee;

(b) Senate Finance and Claims Committee;

(c) House State Administration Committee; and

(d) House Appropriations Committee;

(7) Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee:

- (a) Senate Energy Committee;
- (b) House Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee;
- (c) House Appropriations Committee; and
- (d) Senate Finance and Claims Committee.

CHAPTER 40

Legislation

40-10. Amendment to state constitution. A bill must be used to propose an amendment to The Constitution of the State of Montana. The bill is not subject to the veto of the Governor (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10(1)).

40-20. Appropriation bills — introduction in House — feed bill. (1) All appropriation bills must originate in the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriation bills for the operation of the Legislature must be introduced by the chair of the House Appropriations Committee.

40-30. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), a statute takes effect on October 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(2) A law appropriating public funds for a public purpose takes effect on July 1 following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(3) A statute providing for the taxation or imposition of a fee on motor vehicles takes effect on the first day of January following its passage and approval unless a different time is prescribed in the enacting legislation.

(4) A joint resolution takes effect on its passage unless a different time is prescribed in the joint resolution (sections 1-2-201 and 1-2-202, MCA).

40-40. Bill requests and introduction — limits and procedures — drafting priority — agency and committee bills. (1) Prior to a regular session, a person entitled to serve in that session, referred to as a “member”, or a legislative committee is entitled to request bill drafting services from the Legislative Services Division. Deadlines for requesting certain types of bills during a legislative session are contained in Joint Rule 40-50.

(a) Prior to 5 p.m. on December 5 preceding a regular session of the Legislature, a member may request an unlimited number of bills and resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division for introduction in the regular session.

(b) After 5 p.m. on December 5, a member may request no more than seven bills or resolutions to be prepared by the Legislative Services Division. At least five of the seven bills or

resolutions must be requested before the regular session convenes.

(c) After December 5, a member, in the member's discretion, may grant to any other member any of the remaining bill or resolution requests the granting member has not used. A bill requested by an individual may not be transferred to another legislator but may be introduced by another legislator. The requestor must pick up the bill and sign a receipt indicating delivery of the bill and may either introduce the bill or give the bill to another legislator for introduction.

(d) These limitations on bill and resolution requests do not apply to:

- (i) Code Commissioner bills;
- (ii) a bill or resolution requested by a standing committee; and
- (iii) a bill or resolution requested by a member at the request of a newly elected state official if so designated.

(2) (a) Except as provided in subsection (2)(b) or this subsection, the staff of the Legislative Services Division shall work on bill draft requests in the order received. After a member has requested the drafting of five bills, the sixth bill request and all subsequent bill requests of that member must receive a lower drafting priority than all other bills of members not in excess of five per member. The Speaker of the House, the minority leader of the House, the President of the Senate, and the minority leader of the Senate may each direct the staff of the Legislative Services Division to assign a higher priority to 10 draft requests. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall assign a higher priority to any bill draft request when jointly directed by the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader of the House.

(b) Except for bill draft requests described in subsection (1)(d)(iii), if a draft bill has not been received by the Legislative Services Division by November 15 for a bill by request of an agency or entity, the draft loses its priority under this rule.

(3) Bills and resolutions must be reviewed by the staff of the Legislative Services Division prior to introduction for proper format, style, and legal form. The staff of the Legislative Services Division shall store bills on the automated bill drafting equipment and shall print and deliver them to the requesting members. The original bill back must be signed to indicate review by the Legislative Services Division. A bill may not be introduced unless it is so signed.

(4) (a) During a session, a bill may be introduced by endorsing it with the name of a member and presenting it to the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate. Bills or joint resolutions may be sponsored jointly by Senate and House members. A jointly sponsored bill must be introduced in the house in which the member whose name appears first on the bill is a member. The chief joint sponsor's name must appear immediately to the right of the first sponsor's name, and the chief sponsor may not be changed. Except as provided in subsection (4)(b), in each session of the Legislature, bills, joint resolutions, and simple resolutions must be numbered consecutively in separate series in the order of their receipt.

(b) The first 15 House bills may be reserved for preintroduced bills.

(5) (a) Any bill proposed by an interim or statutory legislative committee or introduced by request of an administrative or executive agency or department must be so indicated by placing after the names of the sponsors the phrase "By Request of the..... (Name of committee or agency)". The phrase may not be added to an introduced bill and may not be placed on a bill whose subject matter was requested by an agency or statutory or interim committee prior to the convening of the session. Unless requested by an individual member, a bill draft request submitted at the request of an agency must be submitted to, reviewed by, and requested by the appropriate interim or statutory committee. Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), an agency or committee bill request must be preintroduced or the request is canceled. Preintroduction of an agency, committee, or individual legislator's bill must occur no later than 5 p.m. on December 15th prior to the convening of a regular legislative session. Preintroduction is accomplished when the Legislative Services Division receives a signed preintroduction form.

(b) The preintroduction requirement does not apply to an office held by an elected official during the official's first year in that office or to bills requested by a joint select or joint special committee appointed prior to the convening of the legislative session to address a specific issue.

(6) Bills may be preintroduced, numbered, and reproduced prior to a legislative session by the staff of the Legislative Services Division. Actual signatures of persons entitled to serve as members in the ensuing session may be obtained on a consent form from the Legislative Services Division and the sponsor's name printed on the bill. Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a

standing committee report on the bill. These names will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division to be included on the face of the bill following standing committee approval.

40-50. Schedules for drafting requests and bill introduction. (1) The following schedule must be followed for submission of drafting requests.

	Request Deadline 5:00 P.M. Legislative Day
• General Bills and Resolutions	12
• Revenue Bills	17
• Committee Bills and Resolutions	36
• Committee Revenue Bills and Bills Proposing Referenda	62
• Committee Bills implementing provisions of a general appropriation act	75
• Interim study resolutions	75
• Appropriation Bills	No Deadline
• Resolutions to express confirmation of appointments	No Deadline
• Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules	No Deadline

(2) Bills and resolutions must be introduced within 2 legislative days after delivery. Failure to comply with the introduction deadline results in the bill draft being canceled.

40-60. Joint resolutions. (1) A joint resolution must be adopted by both houses and is not approved by the Governor. It may be used to:

(a) express desire, opinion, sympathy, or request of the Legislature;

(b) recognize relations with other governments, sister states, political subdivisions, or similar governmental entities;

(c) request, but not require, a legislative entity to conduct an interim study;

- (d) adopt, amend, or repeal the joint rules;
- (e) approve construction of a state building under section 18-2-102 or 20-25-302, MCA;
- (f) deal with disasters and emergencies under Title 10, specifically as provided in sections 10-3-302(3), 10-3-303(3), 10-3-303(4), and 10-3-505(5), MCA;
- (g) submit a negotiated settlement under section 39-31-305(3), MCA;
- (h) declare or terminate an energy emergency under section 90-4-310, MCA;
- (i) ratify or propose amendments to the United States Constitution;
- (j) advise or request the repeal, amendment, or adoption of a rule in the Administrative Rules of Montana; or
- (k) approve the organization of a new community college district under section 20-15-209, MCA.

(2) A joint resolution may not be used for purposes of congratulating or recognizing an individual or group achievement. Recognition of individual or group achievements is handled on special orders of the day.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in these rules or The Constitution of the State of Montana, a joint resolution is treated in all respects as a bill.

(4) A copy of every joint resolution must be transmitted after adoption to the Secretary of State by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House.

40-65. Appropriation required for bills requesting interim studies. A bill including a request for an interim study may not be transmitted to the Governor unless the bill contains an appropriation sufficient to conduct the study. A fiscal note may be requested for a bill requesting an interim study if the appropriation does not appear to be sufficient.

40-70. Bills with same purpose — vetoes. (1) A bill may not be introduced or received in a house after that house, during that session, has finally rejected a bill designed to accomplish the same purpose, except with the approval of the Rules Committee of the house in which the bill is offered for introduction or reception.

(2) Failure to override a veto does not constitute final rejection.

40-80. Reproduction of full statute required. A statute may not be amended or its provisions extended by reference to

its title only, but the statute section that is amended or extended must be reproduced or published at length.

40-90. Bills — original purpose. A law may not be passed except by bill. A bill may not be so altered or amended on its passage through either house as to change its original purpose (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11(1)).

40-100. Fiscal notes. (1) As provided in Title 5, chapter 4, part 2, MCA, all bills reported out of a committee of the Legislature having a potential effect on the revenues, expenditures, or fiscal liability of the state, local governments, or public schools, except appropriation measures carrying specific dollar amounts, must include a fiscal note incorporating an estimate of the fiscal effect. The Legislative Services Division staff shall indicate at the top of each bill prepared for introduction that a fiscal note may be necessary under this rule. Fiscal notes must be requested by the presiding officer of either house, who, at the time of introduction or after adoption of substantive amendments to an introduced bill, shall determine the need for the note, based on the Legislative Services Division staff recommendation.

(2) The Legislative Services Division shall make available an electronic copy of any bill for which it has been determined a fiscal note may be necessary to the Budget Director immediately after the bill has been prepared for introduction and delivered to the requesting member. The Budget Director may proceed with the preparation of a fiscal note in anticipation of a subsequent formal request. A bill with financial implications for a local government or school district must comply with subsection (4).

(3) The Budget Director, in cooperation with the governmental entity or entities affected by the bill, is responsible for the preparation of the fiscal note. Except as provided in subsection (4), the Budget Director shall return the fiscal note within 6 days unless further time is granted by the presiding officer or committee making the request, based upon a written statement from the Budget Director that additional time is necessary to properly prepare the note.

(4) (a) A bill that may require a local government or school district to perform an activity or provide a service or facility that requires the direct expenditure of additional funds without a specific means to finance the activity, service, or facility in violation of section 1-2-112 or 1-2-113, MCA, must be accompanied, at the time that the bill is presented for introduction, by an estimate of all direct and indirect fiscal impacts on the local government or school district. The

estimate of the fiscal impacts must be prepared by the Budget Director in cooperation with a local government or school district affected by the bill.

(b) The Budget Director has 10 days to prepare the estimate. Upon completion of the estimate, the Budget Director shall submit it to the presiding officer and the chief sponsor of the bill.

(5) A completed fiscal note must be submitted by the Budget Director to the presiding officer who requested it. The presiding officer shall notify the bill's chief sponsor of the completed fiscal note and request the chief sponsor's signature. The chief sponsor has 1 legislative day after delivery to review the fiscal note and to discuss the findings with the Budget Director, if necessary. After the legislative day has elapsed, all fiscal notes must be reproduced and placed on the members' desks, either with or without the chief sponsor's signature.

(6) A fiscal note must, if possible, show in dollar amounts:

(a) the estimated increase or decrease in revenues or expenditures;

(b) costs that may be absorbed without additional funds; and

(c) long-range financial implications.

(7) The fiscal note may not include any comment or opinion relative to merits of the bill. However, technical or mechanical defects in the bill may be noted.

(8) A fiscal note also may be requested, through the presiding officer, on a bill and on an amended bill by:

(a) a committee considering the bill;

(b) a majority of the members of the house in which the bill is to be considered, at the time of second reading; or

(c) the chief sponsor.

(9) The Budget Director shall make available on request to any member of the Legislature all background information used in developing a fiscal note.

(10) If a bill requires a fiscal note, the bill may not be reported from a committee for second reading unless the bill is accompanied by the fiscal note or, if required, an updated fiscal note reflecting committee action.

40-110. Sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal. (1) If a sponsor elects to prepare a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal pursuant to section 5-4-204, MCA, the sponsor shall make the election as

provided and return the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form to the presiding officer within 4 days of the election. The form must identify the bill number, the sponsor of the bill, the date prepared, the version of the fiscal note being rebutted, the reasons the sponsor disagrees with the fiscal note, the items or assumptions in the fiscal note that the sponsor believes are incorrect, and the sponsor's estimate of the fiscal impact, if an estimate is available.

(2) The presiding officer may grant additional time to the sponsor for preparation of the sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal.

(3) Upon receipt of the completed sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal form, the presiding officer shall refer it to the committee hearing the bill. If the bill is printed, the form must be identified as a sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, reproduced, and placed on the members' desks.

(4) The Legislative Services Division shall provide forms for preparation of sponsors' fiscal note rebuttals and shall print the completed sponsors' fiscal note rebuttal forms on a different color paper than the fiscal notes prepared by the Budget Director.

40-120. Substitute bills. (1) A committee may recommend that every clause in a bill be changed and that entirely new material be substituted so long as the new material is relevant to the title and subject of the original bill. The substitute bill is considered an amendment and not a new bill.

(2) The proper form of reporting a substitute bill by a committee is to propose amendments to strike out all of the material following the enacting clause, to substitute the new material, and to recommend any necessary changes in the title of the bill.

(3) If a committee report is adopted that recommends a substitute for a bill originating in the other house, the substitute bill must be printed and reproduced.

40-130. Reading of bills. Prior to passage, a bill, other than a bill requested by a joint select or joint special committee as provided in 40-40(5)(b), must be read three times in the house in which it is under consideration. It may be read either by title or by summary of title. Introduction constitutes the first reading of the bill.

40-140. Second reading — bill reproduction. (1) If the majority of a house adopts a recommendation for the passage of a bill originating in that house after the bill has been returned from a committee with amendments, the bill must be reproduced on yellow paper with all amendments incorporated into the copies.

(2) If a bill has been returned from a committee without amendments, only the first sheet must be reproduced on yellow paper, and the remainder of the text may be incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) A bill requested by and heard by a joint select or joint special committee, as provided in 40-40(5)(b), may be referred directly to second reading. If the bill is passed by the house of origin, the bill must be transmitted to the other house, and if the bill was not amended, it may be placed on second reading without the need for referral to a committee.

40-150. Engrossing. (1) When a bill has been reported favorably by Committee of the Whole of the house in which it originated and the report has been adopted, the bill must be engrossed if the bill is amended. Committee of the Whole amendments must be included in the engrossed bill. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing. The bill must be placed on the calendar for third reading on the legislative day after receipt.

(2) Copies of the engrossed bill to be distributed to members are reproduced on blue paper. If a bill is unamended by the Committee of the Whole and contains no clerical errors, it is not required to be reprinted. Only the first sheet must be reproduced on blue paper, with the remainder of the text incorporated by reference to the preceding version of the entire bill.

(3) If a bill is amended by a standing committee in the second house, the amendments must be included in a tan-colored bill and distributed in the second house for second reading consideration. If the bill is amended in Committee of the Whole, the amendments must be included in a salmon-colored reference bill and distributed in the second house for third reading. If the bill passes on third reading, copies of the reference bill must be distributed in the original house. The original house may request from the second house a specified number of copies of the amendments to be printed.

40-160. Enrolling. (1) When a bill has passed both houses, it must be enrolled. An original and two duplicate printed copies of the bill must be enrolled, free from all errors, with a margin of two inches at the top and one inch on each side. In sections amending existing statutes, new matter must be underlined and deleted matter must be shown as stricken.

(2) When the enrolling is completed, the bill must be examined by the sponsor.

(3) The correctly enrolled bill must be delivered to the presiding officer of the house in which the bill originated. The presiding officer shall sign the original and two copies of each bill not later than the next legislative day after it has been reported correctly enrolled, unless the bill is delivered on the last legislative day, in which case the presiding officer shall sign it that day. The fact of signing must be announced by the presiding officer and entered upon the journal no later than the next legislative day. At any time after the report of a bill correctly enrolled and before the signing, if a member signifies a desire to examine the bill, the member must be permitted to do so. The bill then must be transmitted to the other house where the same procedure must be followed.

(4) A bill that has passed both houses of the Legislature by the 90th day may be:

(a) enrolled;

(b) clerically corrected by the presiding officers, if necessary;

(c) signed by the presiding officers; and

(d) delivered to the Governor or, in the case of a bill proposing a referendum, to the Secretary of State, not later than 5 working days after the 90th legislative day.

(5) All journal entries authorized under this rule must be entered on the journal for the 90th day.

(6) The original and two copies signed by the presiding officer of each house must be presented to the Governor or the Secretary of State, as applicable, in return for a receipt. A report then must be made to the house of the day of the presentation, which must be entered on the journal.

(7) The original must be filed with the Secretary of State. Signed copies with chapter numbers assigned pursuant to section 5-11-204, MCA, must be filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Legislative Services Division.

40-170. Amendment by second house. (1) Amendments to a bill by the second house may not be further amended by the house in which the bill originated, but must be either accepted or rejected. A bill amended by the second house when the effect of the combined amendments is to return the bill to the form that the bill passed the house in which the bill originated is not considered to have been amended and need not be returned to the house of origin for acceptance or rejection of the amendments. If the amendments are rejected, a conference committee may be requested by the house in which the bill originated. If the amendments are accepted and the bill is of a type requiring more than a majority vote for

passage, the bill again must be placed on third reading in the house of origin.

(2) The vote on third reading after concurrence in amendments is the vote of the house of origin that must be used to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

40-180. Final action on a bill. (1) When a bill being heard by the second house has received its third reading or has been rejected, the second house shall transmit it as soon as possible to the original house with notice of the second house's action.

(2) A bill that reduces revenue and that contains a contingent voidness provision may not be transmitted to the Governor unless there is an identified corresponding reduction in an appropriation contained in the general appropriations act.

40-190. Transmittal of bills between houses — referral — hearing. (1) Each house shall transmit to the other with any bill all relevant papers.

(2) When a House bill is transmitted to the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate shall give a dated receipt for the bill to the Chief Clerk of the House. When a Senate bill is transmitted to the House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House shall give a dated receipt to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Transmitted bills must be referred to committee and scheduled for hearing.

40-200. Transmittal deadlines — two-thirds vote requirement. (1) (a) A bill or amendment transmitted after the deadline established in this subsection (1) may be considered by the receiving house only upon approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting. If the receiving house does not so vote, the bill or amendment must be held pending in the house to which it was transmitted.

(b) (i) A bill, except for an appropriation bill, a revenue bill, a bill proposing a referendum, an interim study resolution, or amendments considered by joint committee, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 45th legislative day.

(ii) Amendments, except to appropriation bills, committee bills implementing the general appropriations bill, the revenue estimating resolution, interim study resolutions, bills proposing referenda, and revenue bills, must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 73rd legislative day.

(c) (i) Revenue bills and bills proposing referenda must be transmitted to the other house on or before the 71st legislative day.

(ii) Amendments to revenue bills, received from the other house, must be transmitted to the house of origin on or before the 82nd legislative day.

(iii) A revenue bill is one that either increases or decreases revenue by enacting, eliminating, increasing, or decreasing taxes, fees, or fines or by suspending or otherwise changing the allocation of revenues.

(d) (i) Appropriation bills and any bill implementing provisions of a general appropriation bill must be transmitted to the Senate on or before the 67th legislative day. A fund transfer within the state treasury is not an appropriation for purposes of this section.

(ii) Senate amendments to appropriation bills must be transmitted by the Senate to the House on or before the 80th legislative day.

(2) (a) A joint resolution introduced for the purpose of estimating revenue available for appropriation by the Legislature must be transmitted to the Senate no later than the 60th legislative day.

(b) Amendments to the revenue estimating resolution must be transmitted to the House no later than the 82nd legislative day.

(3) Bills repealing or directing the amendment or adoption of administrative rules and joint resolutions advising or requesting the repeal, amendment, or adoption of administrative rules may be transmitted at any time during a session.

(4) Interim study resolutions must be transmitted from one house to the other on or before the 85th legislative day.

40-210. Governor's veto. (1) Except as provided in 40-65 and 40-180, each bill passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the Governor for the Governor's signature. This does not apply to:

(a) bills proposing amendments to The Constitution of the State of Montana;

(b) bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States Constitution;

(c) resolutions; and

(d) referendum measures of the Legislature.

(2) If the Governor does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery, the bill becomes law.

(3) The Governor shall return a vetoed bill to the Legislature with a statement of reasons for the veto.

(4) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it becomes law.

(5) If the Legislature is not in session when the Governor vetoes a bill, the Governor shall return the bill with reasons for the veto to the Legislature as provided by law. The Legislature may be polled on a bill that it approved by two-thirds of the members present or it may be reconvened to reconsider any bill so vetoed (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

(6) The Governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in these instances the procedure must be the same as upon veto of an entire bill (Montana Constitution, Art. VI, Sec. 10).

40-220. Response to Governor's veto. (1) When the presiding officer receives a veto message, the presiding officer shall read it to the members over the rostrum. After the reading, a member may move that the Governor's veto be overridden.

(2) A vote on the motion is determined by roll call. If two-thirds of the members present vote "aye", the veto is overridden. If two-thirds of the members present do not vote "aye", the veto is sustained.

40-230. Governor's recommendations for amendment — procedure. (1) The Governor may return any bill to the Legislature with recommendations for amendment. The Governor's recommendations for amendment must be considered first by the house in which the bill originated.

(2) If the Legislature passes the bill in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, it shall return the bill to the Governor for reconsideration. The Governor may not return a bill to the Legislature a second time for amendment.

(3) If the Governor returns a bill to the originating house with recommendations for amendment, the house shall reconsider the bill under its rules relating to amendments offered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) The bill then is subject to the following procedures:

(a) The originating house shall transmit to the second house, for consideration under its rules relating to amendments in Committee of the Whole, the bill and the

originating house's approval or disapproval of the Governor's recommendations.

(b) If both houses approve the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(c) If both houses disapprove the Governor's recommendations, the bill must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(d) If one house disapproves the Governor's recommendations and the other house approves, then either house may request a conference committee, which may be a free conference committee.

(i) If both houses adopt a conference committee report, the bill in accordance with the report must be returned to the Governor for reconsideration.

(ii) If a conference committee fails to reach agreement or if its report is not adopted by both houses, the Governor's recommendations must be considered not approved and the bill must be returned to the Governor for further consideration.

CHAPTER 60

Rules

60-10. Suspension of joint rule — change in rules. (1) A joint rule may be repealed or amended only with the concurrence of both houses, under the procedures adopted by each house for the repeal or amendment of its own rules.

(2) A joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills may be temporarily suspended by the consent of two-thirds of the members of either house, insofar as it applies to the house suspending it.

(3) Any Rules Committee report recommending a change in the joint rules must be referred to the other house. Any new rule or any change in the rules of either house must be transmitted to the other house for informational purposes.

(4) Upon adoption of any change, the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide the office of the Legislative Services Division:

(a) one copy of all motions or resolutions amending Senate, House, or joint rules; and

(b) copies of all minutes and reports of the Rules Committees.

60-20. Reference to Mason's Manual. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000) governs the proceedings of the Senate and the House of Representatives in all cases not covered by these rules.

60-30. Publication and distribution of joint rules. (1) The Legislative Services Division shall codify and publish in one volume:

(a) the rules of the Senate;

(b) the rules of the House of Representatives; and

(c) the joint rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(2) After the rules have been published, the Legislative Services Division shall distribute copies as directed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

60-40. Tenure of joint rules. The joint rules remain in effect until removed by a joint resolution or until a new Legislature is elected and takes office.

SENATE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Administration

S10-10. Officers of the Senate. The officers of the Senate are the officers listed and elected in accordance with Title 5, chapter 2, part 2, MCA.

S10-20. Term of office. The term of office for the officers and employees of the Senate established by law is until the succeeding Legislature is organized. This rule may not be construed to mean the staff will be full-time employees during an interim.

S10-30. President, President pro tempore, and other officers. (1) The Senate shall, at the beginning of each regular session, and at other times as may be necessary, elect a Senator as President and a Senator as President pro tempore.

(2) The Senate shall choose its other officers and is the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of the Senators.

S10-40. Voting by presiding officer. Any Senator, when acting as presiding officer of the Senate, shall vote as any other Senator.

S10-50. Presiding officer and duties. (1) The presiding officer of the Senate is the President of the Senate, who must be chosen in accordance with law.

(2) The President shall take the chair on every legislative day at the hour to which the Senate adjourned at the last sitting.

(3) The President may name a Senator to perform the duties of the President when the President pro tempore is not present in the Senate chamber. The Senator who is named is vested during that time with all the powers of the President.

(4) The President has general control over the assignment of rooms for the Senate and shall preserve order and decorum. The President may order the galleries and lobbies cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(5) The President shall sign all necessary certifications of the Senate, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals, subpoenas, and payrolls. The President's signature must be attested by the Secretary of the Senate.

(6) The President shall approve the calendar for each legislative day.

(7) The President is the chief administrative officer of the Senate, with authority for the general supervision of all

Senate employees. The President may seek the advice and counsel of the Legislative Administration Committee.

(8) The President of the Senate is the authorized approving authority of the Senate during the term of election to that office.

(9) The President shall refer bills to committee upon introduction or reception in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

S10-60. Succession. (1) In case of the absence or disqualification of the President, the President pro tempore of the Senate shall perform the duties of the President until the vacancy is filled or the disability removed.

(2) Whenever the President pro tempore of the Senate is of the opposite political party from that of the President, the following procedure applies:

(a) If the President dies while in office, the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the same party.

(b) If the President is absent for 2 or more legislative days or at any time after the 85th legislative day or at any time during special session of the Legislature and wants to appoint an acting President during the President's absence, the President may do so, or the members of the Senate have the right to immediately nominate and elect an acting President of the President's caucus.

(c) An acting President of the Senate has the powers of the President and supersedes the powers of the President pro tempore.

S10-70. President-elect. The President-elect nominated by the appropriate party caucus held in accordance with section 5-2-201, MCA, has the responsibility and authority to assume the duties of President of the Senate.

S10-80. Legislative Administration Committee duties. (1) The Legislative Administration Committee shall consider matters relating to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

(2) The committee has authority to act in the interim to prepare for future legislative sessions.

(3) The committee shall approve contracts for purchase or lease of equipment and supplies for the Senate, subject to the approval of the President.

(4) The committee shall consider disputes or complaints involving the competency or decorum of legislative employees referred to it by the President and recommend dismissal, suspension, or retention of employees.

(5) The chair of the Legislative Administration Committee may, upon approval of the President, have purchase orders and requisitions prepared and forwarded to the accounting office in the Legislative Services Division.

S10-90. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;

(2) helping the President develop the calendar;

(3) assisting the President with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions;

(4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-100. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

(1) assisting the majority leader;

(2) ensuring member attendance;

(3) counting votes;

(4) generally communicating the majority position; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-110. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) developing the minority position;

(2) negotiating with the majority party;

(3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;

(4) leading debate for the minority; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-120. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

(1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;

(2) counting votes;

- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and
- (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

S10-130. Senate employees. (1) In addition to the employees appointed by the President in accordance with section 5-2-221, MCA, the Senate shall employ staff recommended by the leadership and the Legislative Administration Committee as necessary to perform the functions of the Senate.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall designate a secretary to take and prepare written minutes of committee meetings for each standing committee. A committee secretary is immediately responsible to the chair, but shall work under the overall direction of the Secretary of the Senate, subject to authority of the committee chair.

(3) The President, majority leader, and minority leader may each appoint a private secretary.

S10-140. Secretary of the Senate and duties. The Secretary of the Senate works under the direction of the President. The responsibilities of the Secretary of the Senate include:

(1) performing the duties prescribed by law or other provisions of these rules;

(2) serving as parliamentary advisor to the Senate;

(3) compiling and maintaining the calendar for approval by the President;

(4) keeping the leadership informed on the progress and workload of the Senate;

(5) transmitting bills with appropriate messages to the House of Representatives as instructed by action of the Senate;

(6) keeping and maintaining records of the Senate; and

(7) supervision of the Senate employees, except as otherwise provided.

S10-150. Sergeant-at-Arms duties. Under the direction of the President, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

(1) maintain order as directed by the President or chair of the Committee of the Whole;

(2) enforce the lobbying rules of the Senate;

(3) supervise the employees assigned to the Sergeant's office;

(4) receive, distribute, and maintain supplies, equipment, and other inventory of the Senate, along with records of purchase and disposal in accordance with law;

(5) perform duties as required by other rules and the Senate.

S10-160. Legislative aides. Each Senator may designate one person of legal age to serve as an aide during the session. Exceptions to this policy may be approved by the Rules Committee. The Senator shall register an aide with the Secretary of the Senate and arrange for the purchase of a name tag with the Sergeant-at-Arms.

S10-170. Senate journal. (1) The Senate shall keep and authenticate a journal of its proceedings as required by law and the rules.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate will supervise the preparation of the journal by the journal clerks trained by the Legislative Services Division under the direction of the President.

(3) In addition to the proceedings required by law to be recorded, the journal must include:

(a) committee reports;

(b) every motion, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;

(c) the introduction of legislation in the Senate;

(d) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;

(e) roll call votes;

(f) messages from the Governor and the House of Representatives;

(g) every amendment, the name of the Senator presenting it, and its disposition;

(h) the names of Senators and their votes on any question upon a request by two Senators before a vote is taken; and

(i) any other records the Senate directs by rule or action.

(4) The Secretary of the Senate shall provide information that may be necessary for the preparation of the daily journal for printing by the Legislative Services Division. Upon approval by the President, the daily journal must be reproduced and made available.

(5) Any Senator may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. Without objection by the Senate, the President may direct the correction to be made.

(6) The President shall authenticate the original daily journal, from time to time, and the Secretary of the Senate shall, as appropriate, deliver it to the Legislative Services Division to be prepared for publication and distribution in accordance with law.

CHAPTER 2

Decorum

S20-10. Questions of order — appeal. The President of the Senate shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal by any Senator seconded by two other Senators. A Senator may not speak more than once on an appeal without the consent of a majority of the Senate.

S20-20. Violation of rules — call to order — appeal. (1) If a Senator, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the Senate, the President shall, or the majority leader or minority floor leader may, call the Senator to order, in which case the Senator called to order must be seated immediately.

(2) The Senator called to order may move for an appeal to the Senate, and if the motion is seconded by two Senators, the matter must be submitted to the Senate for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(3) If the decision of the Senate is in favor of the Senator called to order, the Senator may proceed. If the decision is against the Senator, the Senator may not proceed.

(4) If a Senator is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the minority or majority leader. The Committee may recommend to the Senate that the Senator be censured or be subject to other action. Censure consists of an official public reprimand of a Senator for inappropriate behavior. The Senate shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

S20-30. Questions of privilege — restrictions. (1) Questions of privilege in order of precedence are those:

(a) affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, or integrity of the proceedings of the Senate; and

(b) affecting the rights, reputation, or conduct of individual Senators in their capacity as Senators.

(2) A Senator may not address the Senate on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion;

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

S20-40. Recognition by chair. A Senator desiring to speak shall rise and address the presiding officer and, once

being recognized, shall speak standing in place. The presiding officer may grant permission for a speaker to speak from elsewhere in the chamber. When two or more Senators rise at the same time, the presiding officer shall name the order of the speakers.

S20-50. Floor privileges. (1) When the Senate is in session no person is permitted in the chambers except:

(a) legislators;

(b) legislative officers and employees whose presence is necessary for the conduct of business of the session;

(c) registered representatives of the media; and

(d) former legislators (not currently registered as lobbyists).

(2) The President may make exceptions for visiting dignitaries.

(3) Beginning 1 hour before and ending one-half hour after adjournment, no person is permitted in the chambers except those authorized as exceptions under subsection (1) or (2).

S20-60. Communications to Senate. A communication to the Senate must be addressed to the President and must bear the name of the person submitting it. The President shall decide if the communication bears including in the calendar.

S20-70. Distribution of materials on floor — exception. (1) Subject to subsection (2), material may not be distributed on the Senators' desks in the chamber unless the material bears the signature of the bearer and a Senator and has been approved by the President.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to material written by staff at the request of a Senator and placed on the Senator's desk.

CHAPTER 3
Committees

S30-10. Committee appointments. (1) There is a Committee on Committees consisting of six members. If the Senate is evenly divided between parties, the committee shall consist of six Senators, three from the majority party and three from the minority party.

(2) The Committee on Committees shall, with the approval of the Senate, appoint the members of Senate standing committees, select committees, and joint committees. Prior to making committee assignments, the Committee on Committees shall take into consideration the recommendations of the minority leader for minority committee assignments.

(3) The President of the Senate shall appoint all conference committees and special committees, with the advice of the majority leader and minority leader.

(4) The Senate may change the membership of any committee on 1 day's notice.

S30-20. Standing committees — classification. (1) The standing committees of the Senate are as follows:

- (a) class one committees:
 - (i) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs;
 - (ii) Finance and Claims;
 - (iii) Judiciary; and
 - (iv) Taxation;
- (b) class two committees:
 - (i) Education and Cultural Resources;
 - (ii) Local Government;
 - (iii) Natural Resources;
 - (iv) Public Health, Welfare, and Safety; and
 - (v) State Administration;
- (c) class three committees:
 - (i) Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation;
 - (ii) Energy;
 - (iii) Fish and Game; and
 - (iv) Highways and Transportation; and
- (d) on call committees:

- (i) Ethics;
- (ii) Legislative Administration; and
- (iii) Rules.

(2) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(3) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201.

S30-40. Ex officio members — quorum. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The majority leader and the minority leader are ex officio nonvoting members of all committees in order to establish a quorum.

S30-50. Chair's duties. (1) The chair of a committee is the presiding officer of that committee and is responsible for:

(a) maintaining order within the committee room and its environs;

(b) scheduling hearings and executive action;

(c) supervising committee work, including the appointment of subcommittees to act on a formal or informal basis; and

(d) authenticating committee reports by signing them and submitting them promptly to the Secretary of the Senate. The chair shall sign business reports reflecting action taken in each committee meeting that enable the preparation of committee minutes. The minutes must be printed on archival paper.

(2) The Secretary of the Senate shall arrange to have the minutes copied in an electronic format. An electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division and the State Law Library of Montana. The archival paper copy must be delivered to the Montana Historical Society.

S30-60. Meetings — notice — purpose — minutes. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chair to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be announced.

(2) Notice of a committee hearing must be made by posting the date, time, and subject of the hearing in a conspicuous public place not less than 3 legislative days in advance of the hearing. This 3-day notice requirement does not apply to hearings scheduled:

(a) prior to the third legislative day;

(b) less than 10 legislative days before the transmittal deadline applicable to the subject of the hearing;

(c) to consider confirmation of a gubernatorial appointment received less than 10 legislative days before the last scheduled day of a legislative session; or

(d) due to appropriate circumstances.

(3) When a committee hearing is scheduled with less than 3 days' notice, the committee chair shall use all practical means to disseminate notice of the hearing to the public.

(4) Notice of conference committee hearings must be given as provided in Joint Rule 30-30.

(5) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

(a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or other matters;

(b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or

(c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(6) All committees meet at the call of the chair or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee.

(7) A committee may not meet during the time the Senate is in session without leave of the President. Any Senator attending a meeting while the Senate is in session must be considered excused to attend business of the Senate subject to a call of the Senate.

(8) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the minutes must be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record must contain at least the following information:

- (a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;
- (b) committee members present, excused, or absent;
- (c) the names and addresses of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;
- (d) all motions and their disposition;
- (e) the results of all votes; and
- (f) all testimony and exhibits.

(9) If a bill is heard in a joint committee, it must be referred to a standing committee. The standing committee is not required to hold an additional hearing but shall take executive action and may report the bill to the Committee of the Whole.

(10) A bill or resolution may not be considered or become a law unless referred to a committee and returned from a committee.

(11) A bill may be rereferred at any time before its passage.

S30-70. Procedures — member privileges. (1) The chair shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not hear legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent.

(3) (a) Subject to subsection (3)(b), the committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

(i) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

(A) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;

(B) favorably as to passage; or

(C) unfavorably; or

(ii) by tabling the measure in committee.

(b) At the written request of the sponsor, a committee may finally dispose of a bill without a hearing. Except as provided in S30-60(7), a bill may not be reported from a committee without a hearing.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the Senate without recommendation.

(5) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

- (a) the measure in the form reported out;
- (b) the recommendation of the committee;
- (c) an identification of all proposed changes; and
- (d) a fiscal note, if required.

(6) If a measure is taken from a committee and brought to the Senate floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely recommendations to the Senate that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the Senate.

(7) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(8) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded and reported in the committee minutes. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting.

(9) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the committee.

(10) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(11) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A bill is in the possession of the committee until a report on the bill is made to the Committee of the Whole. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(12) The chair shall decide points of order.

(13) The privileges of committee members include the following:

- (a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;
- (b) to offer motions;
- (c) to assert points of order and privilege;
- (d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chair;
- (e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and
- (f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy, using a standard form.

(14) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Senate Rules.

(15) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(16) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the Senate are applicable except as stated in the Senate Rules.

S30-80. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions. (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list.

(2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing, subject to time constraints. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(3) The chair may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chair. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshall. The chair shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chair may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is at the discretion of the chair.

S30-100. Pairs prohibited — absentee or proxy voting. Pairs in standing committee are prohibited. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize Senators to vote in absentia while engaged in other legislative business. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee minutes.

S30-140. Reconsideration in committee. A committee may at any time prior to submitting a report to the Secretary of the Senate reconsider its previous action on legislation.

S30-150. Committee requested legislation. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), at least three-fourths of all the members of a standing committee must have voted in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting and introduction of legislation.

(b) The Finance and Claims Committee may request the drafting and introduction of legislation by a majority vote of all of the members of the committee.

(2) The chair of a committee shall introduce, or shall designate a member of the committee to introduce, legislation requested by the committee. The introduced bill must be referred to the requesting committee.

S30-160. Ethics Committee. (1) The Ethics Committee shall meet only upon the call of the chair after the referral of an issue from the Rules Committee or to consider a request for a determination pursuant to subsection (4). The Rules Committee may be convened to consider the referral of a matter to the Ethics Committee upon the request of a Senator. The Rules Committee shall prepare a written statement of the specific question or issue to be addressed by the Ethics Committee. The issues referred to the Ethics Committee must be related to the actions of a Senator during a legislative session.

(2) The matters that may be referred to the Ethics Committee are:

(a) a violation of:

(i) 2-2-103;

(ii) 2-2-104;

(iii) 2-2-111;

(iv) 2-2-112;

(b) the use or threatened use of a Senator's position for personal or personal business benefit or advantage; or

(c) any other violation of law by a Senator while acting in the capacity of Senator.

(3) If there is a recommendation from the Ethics Committee, the recommendation is made to the Senate.

(4) As provided in 2-2-112, a Senator may seek a determination from the Ethics Committee concerning the possibility of a personal conflict of interest.

CHAPTER 4

Legislation

S40-10. Types of legislation. The only types of legislation that may be introduced in the Senate are those that have been drafted and approved by the Legislative Services Division and signed by a Senator as chief sponsor. The types of legislation allowed include:

- (1) bills of any subject, except appropriations;
- (2) joint resolutions, which may be used for any purpose specified in Joint Rule 40-60; and
- (3) simple resolutions, which may:
 - (a) adopt or amend Senate rules;
 - (b) provide for the internal affairs of the Senate;
 - (c) express confirmation of the Governor's appointments; or
 - (d) make recommendations concerning the districting and apportionment plan as provided by Article V, section 14(4), of the Montana Constitution.

S40-20. Introduction — first reading. (1) Upon receiving a bill or resolution from a Senator, the Secretary of the Senate shall assign an appropriate sequential number, which constitutes introduction of the legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the Senate must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a Senator may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Secretary of the Senate of receipt of legislation transmitted from the House commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the Senate may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

(2) Bills and resolutions preintroduced as provided in Joint Rule 40-40 may be assigned to committee and printed prior to the legislative session. The Legislative Services Division is responsible for ensuring the preintroduction intent from each Senator and presenting the preintroduced legislation to the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) Upon referral to committee, the Secretary of the Senate shall publicly post a listing of the bill or resolution by a summary of its title, together with a notation of the committee to which it has been assigned.

(4) The sponsor may ask the Legislative Services Division to change or correct a short title used on the bill status system.

S40-30. Additional sponsors. (1) Additional sponsors may be added on motion of the chief sponsor at any time prior to a standing committee report on the bill or resolution. Forms for adding sponsors will be supplied on request by the Secretary of the Senate.

(2) Upon passage of the motion, the names of the additional sponsors will be printed in the journal and the form containing the signatures of the additional sponsors will be forwarded to the Legislative Services Division with the original bill for the inclusion of the names in subsequent printings of the bill or resolution.

S40-40. Reading limitations. (1) Every bill must be read three times prior to passage, either by title or by summary of title as provided in these rules.

(2) A bill or resolution may not have more than one reading on the same day except the last legislative day.

(3) An amendment may not be offered on third reading.

S40-60. Scheduling for second reading. (1) All bills and resolutions that have been reported by a committee or withdrawn from a committee by motion, accepted by the Senate, and reproduced must be scheduled for consideration by Committee of the Whole.

(2) Until the 50th legislative day, 1 day must elapse between receiving the legislation from printing and scheduling for second reading for consideration by Committee of the Whole unless a printed version of an unamended bill is available.

(3) The majority leader shall arrange legislation on the agenda in the order in which the bills will be considered, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate or Committee of the Whole.

CHAPTER 5

Floor Action

S50-10. Attendance — mandatory voting — quorum.

(1) Unless excused, Senators must be present at every sitting of the Senate and shall vote on questions put before the Senate.

(2) A majority of the Senate shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel the attendance of absent Senators, in the manner and under penalties as the Senate may prescribe (Montana Constitution, Art. V, sec. 10(2)).

S50-20. Orders of business. After prayer, roll call, and report on the journal, the order of business of the Senate is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Governor;
- (5) messages from the House of Representatives;
- (6) motions;
- (7) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (8) second reading of bills (Committee of the Whole);
- (9) third reading of bills;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

To revert to or pass to a new order of business requires only a majority vote. Unless otherwise specified in the motion to recess, the Senate shall revert to Order of Business No. 1 when reconvening after a recess.

S50-30. Limitations on debate. A Senator may not speak more than twice on any one motion or question without unanimous consent of the Senate, unless the Senator has introduced or proposed the motion or question under debate, in which case the Senator may speak twice and also close the debate. However, a Senator who has spoken may not speak again on the same motion or question to the exclusion of a Senator who has not spoken.

S50-40. Procedure upon offering a motion. (1) When a motion is offered it must be restated by the presiding officer. If requested by the presiding officer or a Senator, it must be reduced to writing, presented at the rostrum, and read aloud by the Secretary.

(2) A motion may be withdrawn by the Senator offering it at any time before it is amended or voted upon.

S50-50. Precedence of motions. (1) When a question is under debate only the following privileged and subsidiary motions may be made:

- (a) to adjourn (nondebatable S50-60);
- (b) for a call of the Senate (nondebatable S50-60);
- (c) to recess (nondebatable S50-60);
- (d) question of privilege;
- (e) to lay on the table (nondebatable S50-60);
- (f) for the previous question (nondebatable S50-60);
- (g) to postpone to a certain day;
- (h) to refer or commit;
- (i) to amend; and
- (j) to postpone indefinitely.

(2) The motions listed in subsection (1) have precedence in the order listed.

(3) A question may be indefinitely postponed by a majority roll call of all Senators present and voting. When a bill or resolution is postponed indefinitely, it is finally rejected and may not be acted upon again except upon a motion of reconsideration as provided in S50-90.

(4) A motion or proposition on a subject different from that under consideration may not be accepted unless a substitute motion is in order.

S50-60. Nondebatable motions. The following motions are not debatable:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the Senate;
- (3) to recess or rise;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) for suspension of the rules;
- (6) to lay on the table;

- (7) for the previous question;
- (8) to limit, extend the limits of, or to close debate;
- (9) to amend an undebatable motion;
- (10) to change a vote (S50-200);
- (11) to pass business in Committee of the Whole;
- (12) to take from the table;
- (13) a decision of the presiding officer, unless appealed or unless the presiding officer submits the question to the Senate for advice or decision; and
- (14) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or other questions of a general procedural nature.

S50-70. Amending motions — restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (2), no more than one amendment and no more than one substitute motion may be made to a motion. This rule permits the main motion and two modifying motions.

(2) A motion for a call of the Senate, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

S50-80. Previous question. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the effect of calling for the previous question, if adopted, is to close debate immediately, to prevent the offering of amendments or other subsidiary motions, and to bring to vote promptly the immediately pending main question and the adhering subsidiary motions, whether on appeal or otherwise. The motion for the previous question is nondebatable as provided in S50-60(7).

(2) When the previous question is ordered on any debatable question on which there has been no debate, the question may be debated for one-half hour, one-half of that time to be given to the proponents and one-half to the opponents. The sponsor of the main motion on which the previous question is adopted may close on the motion regardless of whether debate on the main motion has occurred.

(3) A call of the Senate is not in order after the previous question is ordered unless it appears upon an actual count by the presiding officer that a quorum is not present.

S50-90. Reconsideration — time restrictions. (1) Subject to subsection (6), any Senator may, on the day the vote was taken or on the next day the Senate is in session, move to reconsider the question. A motion to reconsider is a debatable motion, but the debate is limited to the motion. The debate on a motion to reconsider may not address the substance of the

matter for which reconsideration is sought. However, an inquiry may be made concerning the purpose of the motion to reconsider.

(2) A motion to reconsider must be disposed of when made unless a proper substitute motion is made and adopted.

(3) A motion to recall a bill from the House of Representatives constitutes notice to reconsider and must be acted on as a motion to reconsider. A motion to reconsider or to recall a bill from the House of Representatives may be made only under Order of Business No. 6 and, under that order of business, takes precedence over all motions except motions to recess or adjourn.

(4) When a motion to reconsider is laid on the table, a two-thirds majority is required to take it from the table. When a motion to reconsider fails, the question is finally and conclusively settled.

(5) If a motion to reconsider third reading action is carried, there may not be further action until the succeeding legislative day.

(6) If the Senate has adjourned for more than 2 days, then a motion to reconsider action taken on the last day the Senate was in session is in order on the day the Senate reconvenes or on the following legislative day.

S50-100. Dividing a question — segregation excluded. A Senator may request to divide a question if it includes two or more propositions so distinct in substance that if one thing is taken away a substantive question will remain. A vote is not required on a request to divide a question, but the chair may rule that a question is not divisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in S20-10 and S20-20. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the Senate must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?". A motion to segregate pursuant to S50-140(4) is not a request to divide a question.

S50-110. Rules for questions or bills requiring other than a majority vote. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), a question or bill requires more than a majority vote for final passage, a majority vote is sufficient to decide any question relating to the question or bill prior to third reading.

(2) Any vote in the Senate on a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution under circumstances in which there exists the mathematical possibility of obtaining the necessary two-thirds vote of the Legislature will cause the bill to progress as though it had received the majority vote. This rule does not prevent a committee from indefinitely

postponing or tabling a bill proposing an amendment to the Montana Constitution.

(3) If a bill has been amended in the House of Representatives and the amendments are accepted by the Senate, the bill must again be placed on third reading in the Senate to determine if the required number of votes has been cast.

S50-120. Committee reports to Senate — reconsideration. (1) Reports of standing committees must be read on Order of Business No. 2, and, subject to subsection (4), debate may not be had on any report.

(2) On an adverse committee report, the sponsor may respond to the chair of the committee making the report.

(3) Any Senator seeking a reconsideration of the Senate's action on the adoption of a committee report shall do so on Order of Business No. 6 by motion to reconsider as provided in S50-90. Any Senator may make the reconsideration motion and need not have voted on the prevailing side. This rule applies notwithstanding any joint rule to the contrary. Subject to S50-90(6), the reconsideration motion must be made within 1 legislative day of the adoption of the committee report and is not in order if the bill has been considered in Committee of the Whole.

(4) (a) Subject to subsection (4)(b), the Rules Committee and conference committees may report at any time, except during a call of the Senate, when a vote is being taken, or during Committee of the Whole.

(b) The Rules Committee may report during Committee of the Whole on matters referred to the Committee by the Committee of the Whole.

S50-130. Conference committee — reports. (1) When a conference committee report is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, the report must be read under Order of Business No. 3, select committees, and placed on the calendar the succeeding legislative day for consideration on second reading. If recommended favorably by the Committee of the Whole, it may be considered on third reading the same legislative day.

(2) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the Senate, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the President or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(4) A Senate conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any House conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the Senate.

S50-140. Second reading — Committee of the Whole report — segregation — rejection. (1) The Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for consideration of business on second reading, by approval of a motion for that purpose.

(2) After a Committee of the Whole has been formed, the President shall appoint a chair to preside.

(3) All legislation considered in the Committee of the Whole must be read by a summary of its title. The sponsor shall make an opening statement, proposed amendments must be considered, and then the bill must be considered in its entirety.

(4) Prior to adoption of the Committee of the Whole report, a Senator may move to segregate legislation. If the motion prevails, the legislation remains on second reading.

(5) When a Committee of the Whole report on legislation is rejected, the legislation remains on second reading.

S50-150. Committee of the Whole amendments. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the staff of the Legislative Services Division, stipulating the date and time of preparation and staff approval, and delivered to the Secretary of the Senate for reading before the amendment is voted on.

(2) Each amendment, rejected or adopted, must be printed in the journal, along with the name of the sponsor and the vote on each.

S50-160. Motions in Committee of the Whole. (1) All proper motions on second reading are debatable unless specified in S50-60.

(2) The only motions in order during Committee of the Whole are to:

- (a) recommend passage or nonpassage;
- (b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (House amendments to Senate legislation);

- (c) amend;
 - (d) indefinitely postpone;
 - (e) pass consideration;
 - (f) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda (nondebatable S50-60(14));
 - (g) rise (nondebatable S50-60(3));
 - (h) rise and report progress and ask leave to sit again (nondebatable S50-60(3)); or
 - (i) rise and report (nondebatable S50-60(3)).
- (3) The motions listed in subsection (2) may be made in descending order as listed.

S50-170. Committee of the Whole — generally. (1) The Committee of the Whole may not appoint subcommittees.

(2) The Committee of the Whole may not punish its members for misconduct, but may report disorder to the Senate.

S50-180. Voting on second reading — positive disposition of motions. (1) On Order of Business No. 8, in addition to other methods, a recorded vote may be made in the following manner: the chair may call for a voice vote to accept or reject a question. If the vote is other than unanimous, the chair may ask that the lesser number on the question indicate their vote by standing. The Secretary will then record the vote of those standing. The chair may then rule that unless excused those not standing and present have voted on the prevailing side of the question and that their vote be recorded as voting on the prevailing side. If there was a unanimous voice vote, all those present will be recorded as having voted for the question.

(2) A motion on second reading must be disposed of by a positive vote.

S50-190. Third reading procedure. (1) Unless rereferred to a committee by a majority vote after the adoption of the Committee of the Whole report but before moving to another order of business, all legislation passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) On Order of Business No. 9 the Secretary shall read the title and the President shall state the question as follows: "Senate bill number (or other appropriate identification)..... having been read three several times, the question is, shall the bill (or other appropriate identification) pass the Senate?"

(3) If an electronic voting system is used, the President shall state "Those in favor vote yes and those opposed vote no" and the Secretary will sound the signal and open the board for voting. After a reasonable pause the presiding officer asks "Has every member voted?" (reasonable pause), "Does any member wish to change his or her vote?" (reasonable pause), "The Secretary will record the vote."

S50-200. Senate voting — changing a vote — objection. (1) A roll call vote must be taken on the request of two Senators, if the request occurs before the vote is taken.

(2) On a roll call vote the names of the Senators must be called alphabetically, unless an electronic voting system is used. A Senator may not vote after the decision is announced from the chair. A Senator may not explain a vote until after the decision is announced from the chair.

(3) A Senator may move to change the Senator's vote, on any recorded vote, within 1 legislative day of the vote. The Senator making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the date of the vote, and the original vote tally. A vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation. The motion is nondebatable. If none of the Senators present object, the change must be entered into the journal.

(4) If any Senator objects to the request in subsection (3), the Senator making the request may move to suspend the rules to allow the Senator to change the Senator's vote.

(5) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote within 10 minutes of the malfunction.

S50-210. Pairs — Committee of the Whole restriction.

(1) Two Senators may pair on a question that will be determined by a majority vote. On a question requiring a two-thirds vote for adoption, three Senators may pair, with two Senators for the question and one Senator against. Pairing is permitted only when one of the paired Senators is excused when the vote is taken.

(2) An agreement to pair must be in writing and dated and signed by the Senators agreeing to be bound and must specify the duration of the pair. When an agreement to pair is filed with the Secretary of the Senate, it binds the Senators signing until the expiration of time for which it was signed, unless the paired Senators sooner appear and ask that the agreement be canceled.

(3) Pairs in Committee of the Whole are prohibited.

S50-220. Call of the Senate. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of Senators present may compel the attendance of absent Senators by ordering a call of the Senate.

(2) If a quorum is present, five Senators may order a call of the Senate.

(3) On a call of the Senate, a Senator who refuses to attend may be arrested by the Sergeant-at-Arms or any other person, as the majority of the Senators present direct. When the attendance of an absent Senator is secured and the Senate refuses to excuse the Senator's absence, the Senator may not be paid any expense payments while absent and is liable for the expenses incurred in procuring the Senator's attendance.

(4) During a call of the Senate, all business must be suspended. After a call has been ordered, no motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or remove the call. The call may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

S50-230. House amendments to Senate legislation. (1) When the House has properly returned Senate legislation with House amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 5 and the President shall place them on second reading for debate. The President may rerefer Senate legislation with House amendments to a committee for a hearing if the House amendments constitute a significant change in the Senate legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the House amendments.

(2) If the Senate accepts House amendments, the Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the Senate rejects the House amendments, the Senate may request the House to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the House to appoint a like committee.

S50-240. Governor's amendments. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the Senate shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) The Senate may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the Senate and the House of Representatives accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the

Senate shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

S50-250. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the Senate shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 4.

(2) On any legislative day, a Senator may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 6.

CHAPTER 6

Rules

S60-10. Senate rules — amendment — adoption — suspension. (1) A motion to amend or adopt a rule of the Senate must be referred to the Rules Committee without debate. A rule of the Senate may be amended or adopted only with the concurrence of a majority of the Senate and after 1 day's notice.

(2) A rule may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote.

S60-20. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000) governs the proceedings of the Senate in all cases not covered by these rules.

CHAPTER 7

Nominations from the Governor

S70-10. Nominations. (1) The Governor shall nominate and, by and with the consent of the Senate, appoint all officers whose offices are established by the Montana Constitution or which may be created by law and for whom appointment or election is not otherwise provided.

(2) If during a recess of the Senate a vacancy occurs in any office subject to Senate confirmation, the Governor shall appoint some fit person to discharge the duties of the office until the next meeting of the Senate, when the Governor shall nominate a person to fill the office.

S70-20. Introduction and first reading of nominations. (1) Nominations received from the Governor must be:

(a) received by the President;

(b) delivered to the Secretary of the Senate;

(c) read under Order of Business No. 4, messages from the Governor; and

(d) referred to committee. The President of the Senate may refer any individual nomination contained in a list received from the Governor to any standing committee.

(2) The procedure in subsection (1) constitutes introduction and first reading of the nominations.

(3) The Secretary shall distribute a copy of the list of nominations to each Senator.

S70-30. Committee process — preliminary reports — separate consideration. (1) (a) The committee shall research each nominee and may request biographical information from the Governor for each nominee if none has been provided.

(b) The committee chair shall submit a bill draft request on behalf of the committee for a simple resolution to include the nominee submitted to the committee or a group of nominees, the group of nominees being specified by the committee chair. These bill draft requests will not count against any bill draft request limit imposed on members. When the resolution has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall hold a hearing on the resolution after appropriate public notice has been given.

(2) Following the hearings for a group of nominees, the committee shall issue preliminary standing committee

reports to be distributed to each Senator, stating the committee's recommendations concerning the nominees. A preliminary standing committee report is not required for a resolution for a single nominee pursuant to subsection (5).

(3) (a) If a Senator wishes to have an individual nominee or group of nominees considered by the Senate separately from the group of nominees recommended by the committee, the Senator may request of the chair of the committee that the nominee or nominees be considered by a separate resolution.

(b) A Senator shall request separate consideration of a nominee within 3 days of receipt of the preliminary standing committee report. The committee chair shall honor this request.

(4) After waiting 3 days from the day of distribution of the preliminary standing committee report, the committee chair shall issue a final standing committee report and deliver the report to the Secretary of the Senate.

(a) If a nominee is to be separated from the resolution, the final standing committee report must include an amendment deleting that nominee.

(b) When a nominee has been separated at the request of a Senator or when a single nomination has been submitted to a committee, the committee chair shall submit a bill draft request on behalf of the committee for a simple resolution to include only the single or separated nominee. When the resolution has been prepared and introduced, the committee shall take executive action on the resolution. When a hearing on the separated nomination was held prior to the committee's preliminary standing committee report, an additional hearing is not required to be held before the committee takes action on the separate resolution. After the committee's executive action, the committee chair shall issue a standing committee report.

(5) If a resolution contains only one nominee, the committee shall dispense with the preliminary standing committee report and shall issue a final standing committee report to be distributed to each Senator stating the committee's recommendation concerning the nominee.

(6) The Secretary will read the reports under Order of Business No. 2, reports of standing committees.

(7) After the report has been read, the resolution must be placed on Order of Business No. 11 the next legislative day for consideration by the Senate. Motions to approve or disapprove of the resolution are in order and may be debated.

Appendix A

List of Questions Requiring Other Than a Majority Vote

The following questions require the vote specified:

(1) a call of the Senate with a quorum pursuant to S50-220(2) (five Senators);

(2) a motion to lift a call of the Senate pursuant to S50-220(4) (two-thirds of the members present);

(3) a motion to amend or suspend rules pursuant to S60-10 (two-thirds);

(4) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to S50-250 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(5) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths of each house);

(6) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution for purposes other than those described in that section (three-fifths of each house);

(7) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature);

(8) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to S20-10 (one Senator, seconded by two other Senators);

(9) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(10) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds); and

(11) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths).

HOUSE RULES

CHAPTER 1

Administration

H10-10. House officers — definitions. (1) House officers include a Speaker, a Speaker pro tempore, majority and minority leaders, and majority and minority whips (section 5-2-221, MCA).

(2) A majority of representatives voting elects the Speaker and Speaker pro tempore from the House membership. A majority of each caucus voting nominates House members to the remaining offices, and those nominees are considered to have been elected by a majority vote of the House.

(3) (a) "Majority leader" means the leader of the majority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

(b) "Majority party" means the party with the most members, subject to subsection (4).

(c) "Minority leader" means the leader of the minority party, elected by the caucus as provided in 5-2-221.

(d) "Minority party" means the party with the second most members, subject to subsection (4).

(4) If there are an equal number of members of the two parties with the most members, then the majority party is the party of the Speaker and the minority party is the other party with an equal number of members.

H10-20. Speaker's duties. (1) The Speaker is the presiding officer of the House, with authority for administration, order, decorum, and the interpretation and enforcement of rules in all House deliberations.

(2) The Speaker shall see that all members conduct themselves in a civil manner in accordance with accepted standards of parliamentary conduct. The Speaker may, when necessary, order the Sergeant-at-Arms to clear the aisles and seat the members of the House so that business may be conducted in an orderly manner.

(3) Signs, placards, or other objects of a similar nature are not permitted in the rooms, lobby, gallery, or on the floor of the House. The Speaker may order the galleries, lobbies, or hallway cleared in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct.

(4) The Speaker shall sign all necessary certifications by the House, including enrolled bills and resolutions, journals (section 5-11-201, MCA), subpoenas, and payrolls.

(5) The Speaker shall arrange the agendas for second and third readings each legislative day. Representatives may amend the agendas as provided in H40-130.

(6) The Speaker is the chief officer of the House, with authority for all House employees.

(7) The Speaker may name any member to perform the duties of the chair. If the House is not in session and the Speaker pro tempore is not available, the Speaker shall name a member who shall call the House to order and preside during the Speaker's absence.

(8) Upon request of the Minority Leader, the Speaker will submit a request for a fiscal note on any bill.

H10-30. Speaker-elect. During the transition period between the party organization caucuses and the election of House officers, the Speaker-elect has the responsibilities and authority appropriate to organize the House (section 5-2-202, MCA). Authority includes approving presession expenditures.

H10-40. Speaker pro tempore duties. The Speaker pro tempore shall, in the absence or inability of the Speaker, call the House to order and perform all other duties of the chair in presiding over the deliberations of the House and shall perform other duties and exercise other responsibilities as may be assigned by the Speaker.

H10-50. Majority Leader. The primary functions of the majority leader usually relate to floor duties. The duties of the majority leader may include but are not limited to:

(1) being the lead speaker for the majority party during floor debates;

(2) helping the Speaker develop the calendar;

(3) assisting the Speaker with program development, policy formation, and policy decisions; and

(4) presiding over the majority caucus meetings; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-60. Majority Whip. The duties of the majority whip may include but are not limited to:

(1) assisting the majority leader;

(2) ensuring member attendance;

(3) counting votes;

(4) generally communicating the majority position; and

(5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-70. Minority Leader. The minority leader is the principal leader of the minority caucus. The duties of the minority leader may include but are not limited to:

- (1) developing the minority position;
- (2) negotiating with the majority party;
- (3) directing minority caucus activities on the chamber floor;
- (4) leading debate for the minority; and
- (5) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-80. Minority Whip. The major responsibilities for the minority whip may include but are not limited to:

- (1) assisting the minority leader on the floor;
- (2) counting votes;
- (3) ensuring attendance of minority party members; and
- (4) other duties as assigned by the caucus.

H10-90. Employees. (1) The Speaker shall appoint a Chief Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms and may appoint a Chaplain, subject to confirmation of the House (section 5-2-221, MCA).

(2) The Speaker shall employ necessary staff or delegate that function to the employees designated in subsection (1).

(3) The secretary for a standing or select committee is generally responsible to the committee chair but shall work under the direction of the Chief Clerk.

(4) The Speaker and majority and minority leaders may each appoint a private secretary.

H10-100. Chief Clerk's duties. The Chief Clerk, under the supervision of the Speaker, is the chief administrative officer of the House and is responsible to:

- (1) supervise all House employees;
- (2) have custody of all records and documents of the House;
- (3) supervise the handling of legislation in the House, the House journal, and other House publications; deliver to the Secretary of State at the close of each session the House journal, bill and resolution records, and all original House bills and joint resolutions; collect minutes and exhibits from all House committees and subcommittees and arrange to have them printed on archival paper and copied in an electronic format within a reasonable time after each meeting. An

electronic copy will be provided to the Legislative Services Division and the State Law Library of Montana. The archival paper copy will be delivered to the Montana Historical Society.

H10-110. Duties of Sergeant-at-Arms. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall:

(1) under the direction of the Speaker and the Chief Clerk, have charge of and maintain order in the House, its lobbies, galleries, and hallways and all other rooms in the Capitol assigned for the use of the House;

(2) be present whenever the House is in session and at any other time as directed by the presiding officer;

(3) execute the commands of the House and serve the writs and processes issued by the authority of the House and directed by the Speaker;

(4) supervise assistants to the Sergeant-at-Arms, who shall aid in the performance of prescribed duties and who have the same authority, subject to the control of the Speaker;

(5) clear the floor and anteroom of the House of all persons not entitled to the privileges of the floor prior to the convening of each session of the House;

(6) bring in absent members when so directed under a call of the House;

(7) enforce the distribution of any printed matter in the House chambers and anteroom in accordance with H20-70;

(8) enforce parking regulations applicable to areas of the Capitol complex under the control of the House;

(9) supervise the doorkeeper; and

(10) supervise the pages.

H10-120. Legislative aides. (1) A legislative aide is a person specifically designated by a representative to assist that representative in performing legislative duties. A representative may sponsor one legislative aide a session by written notification to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

(2) No representative may designate a second legislative aide in the same session without the approval of the House Rules Committee.

(3) A legislative aide must be of legal age unless otherwise approved by the House Rules Committee.

(4) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall issue distinctive identification tags to legislative aides. The cost must be paid by the sponsoring representative.

H10-130. Legislative interns. A legislative intern is a person designated under Title 5, chapter 6, MCA.

H10-140. House journal. (1) The House shall keep a journal, which is the official record of House actions (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10). The journal must be prepared under the direction of the Speaker.

(2) Records of the following proceedings must be entered on the journal:

(a) the taking and subscription of the constitutional oath by representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3; 5-2-214);

(b) committee reports;

(c) messages from the Governor;

(d) messages from the Senate;

(e) every motion, the name of the representative presenting it, and its disposition;

(f) the introduction of legislation in the House;

(g) consideration of legislation subsequent to introduction;

(h) on final passage of legislation, the names of the representatives and their vote on the question (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11);

(i) roll call votes; and

(j) upon a request by two representatives before a vote is taken, the names of the representatives and their votes on the question.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall provide to the Legislative Services Division such information as may be required for the publication of the daily journal.

(4) Any representative may examine the daily journal and propose corrections. The Speaker may direct a correction to be made when suggested subject to objection by the House.

(5) The Speaker shall authenticate the House journal after the close of the session (section 5-11-201, MCA).

(6) The Legislative Services Division shall publish and distribute the House journal (sections 5-11-202 and 5-11-203, MCA). The title of each bill must be listed in the index of the published session journal.

H10-150. Votes recorded and public. Every vote of each representative on each substantive question in the House, in any committee, or in Committee of the Whole must be recorded and made public (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 11).

H10-160. Duration of legislative day. A legislative day ends either 24 hours after the House convenes for that day or at the time the House convenes for the following legislative day, whichever is earlier. (See Joint Rule 10-20.)

CHAPTER 2

Decorum

H20-10. Addressing the House — recognition. (1) When a member desires to speak to or address any matter to the House, the member should rise and respectfully address the Speaker or the presiding officer.

(2) The Speaker or presiding officer may ask, “For what purpose does the member rise?” or “For what purpose does the member seek recognition?” and may then decide if recognition is to be granted. There is no appeal from the Speaker’s or presiding officer’s decision.

H20-20. Questions of order and privilege — appeal — restrictions. (1) The Speaker shall decide all questions of order and privilege, subject to an appeal by any representative seconded by two representatives. The question on appeal is, “Shall the decision of the chairman be sustained?”.

(2) Responses to parliamentary inquiries and decisions of recognition may not be appealed.

(3) Questions of order and privilege, in order of precedence, are:

(a) those affecting the collective rights, safety, dignity, and integrity of the House; and

(b) those affecting the rights, reputation, and conduct of individual representatives.

(4) A member may not address the House on a question of privilege between the time:

(a) an undebatable motion is offered and the vote is taken on the motion; .

(b) the previous question is ordered and the vote is taken on the proposition included under the previous question; or

(c) a motion to lay on the table is offered and the vote is taken on the motion.

H20-30. Limits on lobbying. Lobbying on the House floor and in the anteroom is prohibited during a daily session, 2 hours before the session, and 2 hours after the session.

H20-40. Admittance to the House floor. (1) The following persons may be admitted to the House floor during a daily session: present and former legislators; legislative employees necessary for the conduct of the session; registered media representatives; and members’ spouses and children. The Speaker may allow exceptions to this rule.

(2) Only a member may sit in a member's chair when the House is in session.

H20-50. Dilatory motions or questions — appeal. The House has a right to protect itself from dilatory motions or questions used for the purpose of delaying or obstructing business. The presiding officer shall decide if motions (except a call of the House) or questions are dilatory. This decision may be appealed to the House.

H20-60. Lobbying by employees — sanctions. (1) A legislative employee, intern, or aide of either house is prohibited from lobbying, although a legislative committee may request testimony from a person so restricted.

(2) The Speaker may discipline or discharge any House employee violating this prohibition. The Speaker may withdraw the privileges of any House aide or intern violating this prohibition.

H20-70. Papers distributed on desks — exception. A paper concerning proposed legislation may not be placed on representatives' desks unless it is authorized by a member and permission has been granted by the Speaker. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct its distribution. This restriction does not apply to material prepared by staff and placed on a representative's desk at the request of the representative.

H20-80. Violation of rules — procedure — appeal. (1) If a member, in speaking or otherwise, violates the rules of the House, the Speaker shall, or the majority or minority leader may, call the member to order, in which case the member called to order must be seated immediately.

(2) The member called to order may move for an appeal to the House and if the motion is seconded by two members, the matter must be submitted to the House for determination by majority vote. The motion is nondebatable.

(3) If the decision of the House is in favor of the member called to order, the member may proceed. If the decision is against the member, the member may not proceed.

(4) If a member is called to order, the matter may be referred to the Rules Committee by the majority or minority leader. The Committee may recommend to the House that the member be censured or be subject to other action. The House shall act upon the recommendation of the Committee.

CHAPTER 3

Committees

H30-10. House standing committees — appointments — classification. (1) The Speaker shall determine the total number of members and after good faith consultation with the minority leader shall appoint the chairs, vice chairs, and members to the standing committees.

(2) The standing committees of the House are as follows:

(a) class one committees:

(i) Appropriations;

(ii) Business and Labor;

(iii) Judiciary;

(iv) State Administration; and

(v) Taxation;

(b) class two committees:

(i) Education;

(ii) federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications;

(iii) Human Services;

(iv) Natural Resources; and

(v) Transportation;

(c) class three committees:

(i) Agriculture;

(ii) Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; and

(iii) Local Government; and

(d) on call committees:

(i) Ethics;

(ii) Rules; and

(iii) Legislative Administration.

(3) A class 1 committee is scheduled to meet Monday through Friday. A class 2 committee is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. A class 3 committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday and Thursday. Unless a class is prescribed for a committee, it meets upon the call of the chair.

(4) The Legislative Council shall review the workload of the standing committees to determine if any change is indicated in the class of a standing committee for the next legislative session. The Legislative Council's recommendations must be

submitted to the leadership nominated or elected at the presession caucus provided for in 5-2-201.

(5) There will be six subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations, Education, General Government and Transportation, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources, Corrections, and Long-Range Planning. Each member serving on the Appropriations Committee must be appointed to at least one of the subcommittees.

(6) The Speaker shall give notice of each appointment to the Chief Clerk for publication.

(7) The Speaker may, in the Speaker's discretion or as authorized by the House, create and appoint select committees, designating the chairman and vice chairman of the select committee. Select committees may request or receive legislation in the same manner as a standing committee and are subject to the rules of standing committees.

H30-20. Chairman's duties. (1) The principal duties of the chairman of standing or select committees are to:

(a) preside over meetings of the committee and to put all questions;

(b) maintain order and decide all questions of order subject to appeal to the committee;

(c) supervise and direct staff of the committee;

(d) have the committee secretary keep the official record of the minutes;

(e) sign reports of the committee and submit them promptly to the Chief Clerk;

(f) appoint subcommittees to perform on a formal or an informal basis as provided in subsection (2); and

(g) inform the Speaker of committee activity.

(2) With the exception of the House Appropriations subcommittees, a subcommittee of a standing committee may be appointed by the chairman of the committee. The chairman of the standing committee shall appoint the chairman of the subcommittee.

H30-30. Quorum — officers as members. (1) A quorum of a committee is a majority of the members of the committee. A quorum of a committee must be present at a meeting to act officially. A quorum of a committee may transact business, and a majority of the quorum, even though it is a minority of the committee, is sufficient for committee action.

(2) The Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader are ex officio, nonvoting members of all House committees. They may count toward establishing a quorum.

H30-40. Meetings — purpose — notice — minutes. (1) All meetings of committees must be open to the public at all times, subject always to the power and authority of the chairman to maintain safety, order, and decorum. The date, time, and place of committee meetings must be posted.

(2) A committee or subcommittee may be assembled for:

(a) a public hearing at which testimony is to be heard and at which official action may be taken on bills, resolutions, or other matters;

(b) a formal meeting at which the committees may discuss and take official action on bills, resolutions, or other matters without testimony; or

(c) a work session at which the committee may discuss bills, resolutions, or other matters but take no formal action.

(3) All committees meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of a majority of the members of the committee directed to and with the approval of the Speaker.

(4) All committees shall provide for and give public notice, reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, of the time, place, and subject matter of regular and special meetings. All committees are encouraged to provide at least 3 legislative days notice to members of committees and the general public. However, a meeting may be held upon notice appropriate to the circumstances.

(5) A committee may not meet during the time the House is in session without leave of the Speaker. Any member attending such a meeting must be considered excused to attend business of the House subject to a call of the House.

(6) All meetings of committees must be recorded and the minutes must be available to the public within a reasonable time after the meeting. The official record must contain at least the following information:

(a) the time and place of each meeting of the committee;

(b) committee members present, excused, or absent;

(c) the names and addresses of persons appearing before the committee, whom each represents, and whether the person is a proponent, opponent, or other witness;

(d) all motions and their disposition;

(e) the results of all votes;

(f) references to the recording log, sufficient to serve as an index to the original recording; and

(g) testimony and exhibits submitted in writing.

H30-50. Procedures — absentee or proxy voting — member privileges. (1) The chairman shall notify the sponsor of any bill pending before the committee of the time and place it will be considered.

(2) A standing or select committee may not take up referred legislation unless the sponsor or one of the cosponsors is present or unless the sponsor has given written consent. The chairman shall attempt to not schedule Senate bills while the Senate is in session.

(3) The committee shall act on each bill in its possession:

(a) by reporting the bill out of the committee:

(i) with the recommendation that it be referred to another committee;

(ii) favorably as to passage; or

(iii) unfavorably; or

(b) by tabling the measure in committee.

(4) The committee may not report a bill to the House without recommendation.

(5) The committee may recommend that a bill on which it has made a favorable recommendation by unanimous vote be placed on the consent calendar. A tie vote in a standing committee on the question of a recommendation to the whole House on a matter before the committee, for example on a question of whether a bill is recommended as “do pass” or “do not pass”, does not result in the matter passing out to the whole House for consideration without recommendation.

(6) In reporting a measure out of committee, a committee shall include in its report:

(a) the measure in the form reported out;

(b) the recommendation of the committee;

(c) an identification of all substantive changes; and

(d) a fiscal note, if required.

(7) If a measure is withdrawn from a committee and brought to the House floor for debate on second reading on that day without a committee recommendation, the bill does not include amendments formally adopted by the committee because committee amendments are merely

recommendations to the House that are formally adopted when the committee report is accepted by the House.

(8) A second to any motion offered in a committee is not required in order for the motion to be considered by the committee.

(9) The vote of each member on all committee actions must be recorded. All motions may be adopted only on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members voting. Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize members to vote by proxy if absent, while engaged in other legislative business or when excused by the presiding officer of the committee due to illness or an emergency. Authorization for absentee or proxy voting must be reflected in the committee minutes.

(10) A motion to take a bill from the table may be adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at any meeting of the committee.

(11) An action formally taken by a committee may not be altered in the committee except by reconsideration and further formal action of the committee.

(12) A committee may reconsider any action as long as the matter remains in the possession of the committee. A committee member need not have voted with the prevailing side in order to move reconsideration.

(13) Any legislation requested by a committee requires three-fourths of all members of the committee to vote in favor of the question to allow the committee to request the drafting or introduction of legislation. Votes requesting drafting and introduction of committee legislation may be taken jointly or separately.

(14) The chairman shall decide points of order.

(15) The privileges of committee members include the following:

(a) to participate freely in committee discussions and debate;

(b) to offer motions;

(c) to assert points of order and privilege;

(d) to question witnesses upon recognition by the chairman;

(e) to offer any amendment to any bill; and

(f) to vote, either by being present or by proxy if authorized pursuant to subsection (9), using a standard form or through the vice chairman or minority vice chairman.

(16) Any meeting of a committee held through the use of telephone or other electronic communication must be conducted in accordance with Chapter 3 of the House Rules.

(17) A committee may consolidate into one bill any two or more related bills referred to it whenever legislation may be simplified by the consolidation.

(18) Committee procedure must be informal, but when any questions arise on committee procedure, the rules or practices of the House are applicable except as stated in the House Rules.

H30-60. Public testimony — decorum — time restrictions. (1) Testimony from proponents, opponents, and informational witnesses must be allowed on every bill or resolution before a standing or select committee. All persons, other than the sponsor, offering testimony shall register on the committee witness list.

(2) Any person wishing to offer testimony to a committee hearing a bill or resolution must be given a reasonable opportunity to do so, orally or in writing. Written testimony may not be required of any witness, but all witnesses must be encouraged to submit a statement in writing for the committee's official record.

(3) The chairman may order the committee room cleared of visitors if there is disorderly conduct. During committee meetings, visitors may not speak unless called upon by the chairman. Restrictions on time available for testimony may be announced.

(4) The number of people in a committee room may not exceed the maximum posted by the State Fire Marshal. The chairman shall maintain that limit.

(5) In any committee meeting, the use of cameras, television, radio, or any form of telecommunication equipment is allowed, but the chairman may designate the areas of the hearing room from which the equipment must be operated. Cell phone use is allowed only at the discretion of the chairman.

CHAPTER 4

Legislation

H40-10. Introduction deadlines. If a representative accepts drafted legislation from the Legislative Services Division after the deadline for preintroduction, the representative may not introduce that legislation after 2 legislative days from the time the bill was accepted from the Legislative Services Division.

H40-20. House resolutions. (1) A House resolution is used to adopt or amend House rules, make recommendations on the districting and apportionment plan (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 14), express the sentiment of the House, or assist House operations.

(2) As to drafting, introduction, and referral, a House resolution is treated as a bill. A House resolution may be requested and introduced at any time. Final passage of a House resolution is determined by the Committee of the Whole report. A House resolution does not progress to third reading.

(3) The Chief Clerk shall transmit a copy of each passed House resolution to the Senate and the Secretary of State.

H40-30. Cosponsors. (1) Prior to submitting legislation to the Chief Clerk for introduction, the chief sponsor may add representatives and senators as cosponsors by having them sign the legislation.

(2) After legislation is submitted for introduction but before the legislation returns from the first House committee, the chief sponsor may add or remove cosponsors by filing a cosponsor form with the Chief Clerk. This filing must be noted by the Chief Clerk for the record on Order of Business No. 11.

H40-40. Introduction — receipt — messages from Senate and elected officials. (1) During a session, proposed House legislation may be introduced in the House by submitting it, endorsed with the signature of a representative as chief sponsor, to the Chief Clerk for introduction. Except for the first 15 bill numbers that may be reserved for preintroduced legislation, in each session of the Legislature, the proposed legislation must be numbered consecutively by type in the order of receipt. Submission and numbering of properly endorsed legislation constitutes introduction.

(2) Preintroduction of legislation prior to a session under provisions of the joint rules constitutes introduction in the House.

(3) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation or other matters transmitted from the Senate for consideration by the House constitutes introduction of the Senate legislation in the House or receipt by the House for purposes of applying time limits contained in the House rules. All legislation may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum as provided in H40-50.

(4) Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of messages from the Senate or other elected officials constitutes receipt by the House for purposes of any applicable time limit. Senate legislation or messages received from the Senate or elected officials are subject to all other rules.

H40-50. First reading — receipt of Senate legislation. Legislation properly introduced or received in the House must be announced across the rostrum and public notice provided. This announcement constitutes first reading, and no debate or motion is in order except that a representative may question adherence to rules. Acknowledgment by the Chief Clerk of receipt of legislation transmitted from the Senate commences the time limit for consideration of the legislation. All legislation received by the House may be referred to a committee prior to being read across the rostrum.

H40-60. One reading per day — exception. Except on the final legislative day, legislation may receive no more than one reading per legislative day. On the final legislative day, legislation may receive more than one reading.

H40-70. Referral. (1) The Speaker shall refer to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee all properly introduced House legislation and transmitted Senate legislation in conformity to the committee jurisdiction.

(2) Legislation may not receive final passage and approval unless it has been referred to a House committee, joint select committee, or joint special committee.

H40-80. Rereferral — normal progression. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has not been finally disposed of may be rereferred to a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

(2) Legislation that is in the possession of the House and that has been reported from a committee with a do pass or be concurred in recommendation may be rereferred to a House committee by a majority vote.

(3) The normal progress of legislation through the House consists of the following steps in the order listed: introduction; referral to a standing or select committee; a report from the committee; second reading; and third reading.

H40-90. Legislation withdrawn from committee. Legislation may be withdrawn from a House committee by House motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

H40-100. Standing committee reports — requirement for rejection of adverse committee report. (1) A House standing committee recommendation of “do pass” or “be concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, if there is no objection to form, is considered adopted.

(2) A recommendation of “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” must be announced across the rostrum and, on the following legislative day, may be debated and adopted or rejected on Order of Business No. 2. A motion to reject an adverse committee report must be approved by not less than three-fifths of the members voting. Failure to adopt a motion to reject an adverse committee report constitutes adoption of the report.

(3) If the House rejects an adverse committee report, the bill progresses to second reading, as scheduled by the Speaker, with any amendments recommended by the committee.

H40-110. Consent calendar procedure. (1) Noncontroversial bills and simple and joint resolutions may be recommended for the consent calendar by a standing committee and processed according to the following provisions:

(a) To be eligible for the consent calendar, the legislation must receive a unanimous vote by the members of the standing committee in attendance (do pass, do pass as amended). In addition, a motion must be made and passed unanimously to place the legislation on the consent calendar and this action reflected in the committee report. Appropriation or revenue bills may not be recommended for the consent calendar.

(b) The legislation must then be sent to be processed and reproduced as a third reading version and specifically marked as a “consent calendar” item.

(2) Other legislation may be placed on the consent calendar by agreement between the Speaker and the minority leader following a positive recommendation by a standing committee. The legislation must be sent to be processed as a

second reading version but must be specifically announced and posted as a "consent calendar" item.

(3) Legislation must be posted immediately (as soon as it is received appropriately printed) on the consent calendar and must remain there for 1 legislative day before consideration under Order of Business No. 11, special orders of the day. At that time, the presiding officer shall announce consideration of the consent calendar and allow "reasonable time" for questions and answers upon request. No debate is allowed.

(4) If any one representative submits a written objection to the placement of legislation on the consent calendar, the legislation must be removed from the consent calendar and added to the regular second reading board.

(5) Consent calendar legislation will be considered on Order of Business No. 8, third reading of bills, following the regular third reading agenda, as separately noted on the agenda.

(6) Legislation on the consent calendar must be considered individually with the roll call vote spread on the journal as the final vote in the House.

(7) Legislation passed on the consent calendar must then be transmitted to the Senate. Legislation must be appropriately printed prior to transmittal.

H40-120. Legislation requiring other than a majority vote. Legislation that requires other than a majority vote for final passage needs only a majority vote for any action that is taken prior to third reading and that normally requires a majority vote.

H40-130. Amending House second and third reading agendas — vote requirements. (1) A majority of representatives present may rearrange or remove legislation from either the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day.

(2) Legislation may be added to the second or third reading agenda on that legislative day on a motion approved by not less than three-fifths of the members present and voting.

H40-140. Second reading — timing — obverse vote on failed motion — status of amendments — rejection of report — segregation. (1) Legislation returned or withdrawn from committee by motion must be placed on second reading prior to the transmittal deadlines provided for in Joint Rule 40-200 that are applicable to each piece of legislation.

(2) The House shall form itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider business on second reading. The Committee of the Whole may debate legislation, attach amendments, and recommend approval or disapproval of legislation.

(3) Except on the final legislative day, at least 1 legislative day must elapse between the time legislation is reported from committee and the time it is considered on second reading.

(4) If a motion to recommend that a bill “do pass” or “be concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in”, is considered to have passed. If a motion to recommend that a bill “do not pass” or “be not concurred in” fails in the Committee of the Whole, the obverse, i.e., a recommendation that the bill “do pass” or “be concurred in”, is considered to have passed.

(5) An amendment attached to legislation by the Committee of the Whole remains unless removed by further legislative action.

(6) When the Committee of the Whole reports to the House, the House shall adopt or reject the Committee of the Whole report. If the House rejects the Committee of the Whole report, the legislation remains on second reading, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, unless the House orders otherwise.

(7) A representative may move to segregate legislation from the Committee of the Whole report before the report is adopted. Segregated legislation, as amended by the Committee of the Whole, must be placed on second reading unless the House orders otherwise. Amendments adopted by the Committee of the Whole on segregated legislation remain adopted unless reconsidered pursuant to H50-170 or unless the legislation is rereferred to a committee.

H40-150. Amendments in the Committee of the Whole — timing — official records. (1) All Committee of the Whole amendments must be prepared by the Legislative Services Division and checked by the House amendments coordinator for format, style, clarity, consistency, and other factors, in accordance with the most recent Bill Drafting Manual published by the Legislative Services Division, before the amendment may be accepted at the rostrum. The amendment form must include the date and time the amendment is submitted for that check.

(2) An amendment submitted to the rostrum for consideration by the Committee of the Whole must be marked as checked by the amendments coordinator and signed by a

representative. Unless the majority leader, the minority leader, and sponsor agree, amendments must be printed and placed on the members' desks prior to consideration.

(3) An amendment may not be proposed until the sponsor has opened on a bill.

(4) A copy of every amendment rejected by the Committee of the Whole must be kept as part of the official records.

(5) An amendment may not change the original purpose of the bill.

H40-160. Motions in the Committee of the Whole — quorum required. (1) When the House resolves itself into a Committee of the Whole, the only motions in order are to:

(a) recommend passage or nonpassage;

(b) recommend concurrence or nonconcurrence (Senate amendments to House legislation);

(c) amend;

(d) reconsider as provided in H50-170;

(e) pass consideration;

(f) call for cloture;

(g) change the order in which legislation is placed on the agenda; and

(h) rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and beg leave to sit again.

(2) Subsections (1)(d) through (1)(f) and (1)(h) are nondebatable but may be amended. Once a motion under subsection (1)(a) or (1)(b) is made, a contrary motion is not in order.

(3) The motions listed in subsection (1) may be made in descending order as listed.

(4) If a quorum of representatives is not present during second reading, the Committee of the Whole may not conduct business on legislation and a motion for a call of the House without a quorum is in order.

H40-170. Limits on debate in the Committee of the Whole. (1) Except as provided in H40-180, a representative may not speak more than once on the motion and may speak for no more than 5 minutes. The representative who makes the motion may speak a second time for 5 minutes in order to close.

(2) After at least two proponents and two opponents have spoken on a question and 30 minutes have elapsed, a motion to call for cloture is in order. Approval by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting is required to sustain a motion for cloture. Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

(3) By previous agreement of the majority leader and the minority leader:

(a) a lead proponent and a lead opponent may be granted additional time to speak on a bill;

(b) a bill or resolution may be allocated a predetermined amount of time for debate and number of speakers.

H40-180. Special provisions for debate on the general appropriations bill — sections — amendments. (1) The Appropriations Committee chairman, in presenting the bill, is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(2) Each appropriations subcommittee chairman shall fully present the chairman's portion of the bill. A subcommittee chairman is not subject to the 5-minute speaking limitation.

(3) After the presentation by the subcommittee chairman, the respective section of the bill is open for debate, questions, and amendments. A proposed amendment to the general appropriations act may not be divided.

(4) An amendment that affects more than one section of the bill must be offered when the first section affected is considered.

(5) Following completion of the debate on each section, that section is closed and may not be reopened except by majority vote.

(6) If a member moves to reopen a section for amendment, only the amendment of that member may be entertained. Another member wishing to amend the same section shall make a separate motion to reopen the section.

(7) Debate on the motion to reopen a section is limited to the question of reopening the section. The amendment itself may not be debated at that time. This limitation does not prohibit the member from explaining the amendment to be considered.

H40-190. Engrossing. (1) After legislation is passed on second reading, it must be engrossed within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for engrossing.

(2) When the legislation that has passed second reading, as amended, has been correctly engrossed, it must be placed on third reading on the following legislative day. If the bill is not amended, the bill must be sent to printing and must be placed on third reading on the legislative day after receipt. On the final legislative day, the correctly engrossed legislation may be placed on third reading on the same legislative day. For the purposes of this rule, "engrossing" means placing amendments in a bill. (See Joint Rule 40-150.)

H40-200. Third reading. (1) All bills, joint resolutions, and Senate amendments to House bills and joint resolutions passing second reading must be placed on third reading the day following the receipt of the engrossing or other appropriate printing report.

(2) Legislation on third reading may not be amended or debated.

(3) The Speaker shall state the question on legislation on third reading. If a majority of the representatives voting does not approve the legislation, it fails to pass third reading.

H40-210. Senate legislation in the House. Senate legislation properly transmitted to the House must be treated as House legislation.

H40-220. Senate amendments to House legislation. (1) When the Senate has properly returned House legislation with Senate amendments, the House shall announce the amendments on Order of Business No. 4, and the Speaker shall place them on second reading for debate. The Speaker may rerefer House legislation with Senate amendments to a committee for a hearing if the Senate amendments constitute a significant change in the House legislation. The second reading vote is limited to consideration of the Senate amendments.

(2) If the House accepts Senate amendments, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the legislation, as amended, is passed or if the required vote is obtained.

(3) If the House rejects the Senate amendments, the House may request the Senate to recede from its amendments or may direct appointment of a conference committee and request the Senate to appoint a like committee.

H40-230. Conference committee reports. (1) When a House conference committee files a report, the report must be announced under Order of Business No. 3.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the conference committee report on second reading on any legislative day. The House may reconsider its action in rejecting a conference committee report under rules for reconsideration, H50-160.

(3) If both the House and the Senate adopt the same conference committee report on legislation requiring more than a majority vote for final passage, the House, following approval of the conference committee report on third reading, shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

(4) If the House rejects a conference committee report, the committee continues to exist unless dissolved by the Speaker or by motion. The committee may file a subsequent report.

(5) A House conference committee may confer regarding matters assigned to it with any Senate conference committee with like jurisdiction and submit recommendations for consideration of the House.

H40-240. Enrolling. (1) When House legislation has passed both houses, it must be enrolled within 48 hours under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker may grant additional time for enrolling.

(2) The chief sponsor of the legislation shall examine the enrolled legislation and, if it has no enrolling errors, shall, within 1 legislative day, certify the legislation as correctly enrolled.

(3) The correctly enrolled legislation must be delivered to the Speaker, who shall sign the legislation.

(4) After the legislation has been reported correctly enrolled but before it is signed, any representative may examine the legislation. (See Joint Rule 40-160.)

H40-250. Governor's amendments. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with recommended amendments, the House shall announce the amendments under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) The House may debate and adopt or reject the Governor's recommended amendments on second reading on any legislative day.

(3) If both the House and the Senate accept the Governor's recommended amendments on a bill that requires more than a majority vote for final passage, the House shall place the final form of the legislation on third reading to determine if the required vote is obtained.

H40-260. Governor's veto. (1) When the Governor returns a bill with a veto, the House shall announce the veto under Order of Business No. 5.

(2) On any legislative day, a representative may move to override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote under Order of Business No. 9.

CHAPTER 5

Floor Actions

H50-10. Attendance — excuse — call of the House. (1) A representative, unless excused, is required to be present at every sitting of the House.

(2) A representative may request in writing to be excused for a specified cause by the representative's party leader. This excused absence is not a leave with cause from a call of the House.

H50-20. Quorum. (1) A quorum of the House is fifty-one representatives (Montana Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 10).

(2) Any representative may question the lack of a quorum at any time a vote is not being taken. The question is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is resolved by a roll call.

(3) The House may not conduct business without a quorum, except that representatives present may convene, compel the attendance of absent representatives, or adjourn.

H50-30. Call of the House without a quorum. (1) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the representatives present may compel the attendance of absent representatives through a call of the House without a quorum. The motion for the call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time it has been established that a quorum is not present.

(2) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(3) When a quorum has been achieved under the call, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

H50-40. Call of the House with a quorum. (1) If a quorum is present but at least one representative is excused or absent, one-third of the representatives present and voting may order a call of the House with a quorum.

(2) The motion for a call is nondebatable, may not be amended, and is in order at any time a vote is not being taken, except that a call of the House with a quorum is not allowed in the Committee of the Whole.

(3) During a call of the House, all business is suspended. No motion is in order except a motion to adjourn or to remove the call.

(4) When all representatives are present, except those on leave with cause, the call is automatically lifted. The call may also be lifted by adjournment or by two-thirds of the representatives present and voting.

H50-50. Leave with cause during call of the House. (1) During a call of the House, a representative with an overriding medical or personal reason may request a leave with cause.

(2) If the representative is present at the time of the call, the Speaker may approve a request for a leave with cause.

(3) If the representative is not present at the time of the call, two-thirds of the representatives present and voting may approve a request for leave with cause.

(4) During a call of the House, a representative on leave with cause may not cast an absentee vote.

H50-60. Opening and order of business. The opening of each legislative day must include an invocation, the pledge of allegiance, and roll call. Following the opening, the order of business of the House is as follows:

- (1) communications and petitions;
- (2) reports of standing committees;
- (3) reports of select committees;
- (4) messages from the Senate;
- (5) messages from the Governor;
- (6) first reading and commitment of bills;
- (7) second reading of bills;
- (8) third reading of bills;
- (9) motions;
- (10) unfinished business;
- (11) special orders of the day; and
- (12) announcement of committee meetings.

H50-70. Motions. (1) Any representative may propose a motion allowed by the rules for the order of business under which the motion is offered for the consideration of the House. Unless otherwise specified in rule or law, a majority of

representatives voting is necessary and sufficient to decide a motion.

(2) Seconds to motions on the House floor are not required.

(3) Absentee votes are not allowed on votes that are specified as “representatives present and voting”.

(4) The majority leader shall make routine procedural motions required to conduct the business of the House.

H50-80. Limits on debate of debatable motions. (1) Except for the representative who places a debatable motion before the body, no representative may speak more than once on the question unless a unanimous House consents. The representative who places the motion may close.

(2) No representative may speak for more than 10 minutes on the same question, except that a representative may have 5 minutes to close.

H50-90. Nondebatable motions. (1) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, usually under the administration of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

(2) The following motions are nondebatable:

(a) to adjourn pursuant to H50-250;

(b) for a call of the House;

(c) to recess or rise;

(d) for parliamentary inquiry;

(e) to table or take from the table;

(f) to call for the previous question or cloture;

(g) to amend a nondebatable motion;

(h) to divide a question;

(i) to suspend the rules;

(j) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature;

(k) to appeal a call to order;

(l) to question the lack of a quorum pursuant to H50-20; and

(m) to change a vote pursuant to H50-210.

H50-100. Questions. A representative may, through the presiding officer, ask questions of another representative during a floor session. There is no limit on questions and answers, except as provided in H20-50.

H50-110. Amending motions — limitations. (1) A representative may move to amend the specific provisions of a motion without changing its substance.

(2) No more than one motion to amend a motion is in order at any one time.

(3) A motion for a call of the House, for the previous question, to table, or to take from the table may not be amended.

H50-120. Substitute motions. (1) When a question is before the House, no substitute motion may be made except the following, which have precedence in the order listed:

(a) to adjourn (nondebatable H50-90 and H50-250);

(b) for a call of the House (nondebatable H50-90);

(c) to recess or rise (nondebatable H50-90);

(d) for a question of privilege;

(e) to table (nondebatable H50-90);

(f) to call for the previous question or cloture;

(g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;

(h) to refer to a committee; and

(i) to propose amendments.

(2) Nothing in this section allows a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), no more than one substitute motion is in order at any one time.

(b) A motion for cloture is in order on a substitute motion to amend.

H50-130. Withdrawing motions. A representative who proposes a motion may withdraw it before it is voted on or amended.

H50-140. Dividing a question. Except as provided in H40-180(3), a representative may request to divide a question as a matter of right if it includes two or more propositions so distinct that they can be separated and if at least one substantive question remains after one substantive question is removed. The request is nondebatable under H50-90. The presiding officer may rule that a question is nondivisible. The ruling of the chair may be appealed as provided in H50-160(15) or (17) and H70-50. For an appeal of a ruling of the presiding officer, the question for the house must be stated as, "Shall the ruling of the chair be upheld?"

H50-150. Previous question — close. (1) If a majority of representatives present and voting adopts a motion for the previous question, debate is closed on the question and it must be brought to a vote. The Speaker may not entertain a motion to end debate unless at least one proponent and one opponent have spoken on the question.

(2) Notwithstanding the passage of a motion to end debate, the sponsor of the motion on which debate was ended may close.

H50-160. Questions requiring other than a majority vote. The following questions require the vote specified for each condition:

100 House Members

(1) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the tobacco settlement trust fund pursuant to Article XII, section 4, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate the principal of the coal severance tax trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 5, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(3) a motion to approve a bill to appropriate highway revenue, as described in Article VIII, section 6, of the Montana Constitution, for purposes other than therein described (three-fifths);

(4) a motion to approve a bill to authorize creation of state debt pursuant to Article VIII, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(5) a motion to appropriate the principal of the noxious weed management trust fund pursuant to Article IX, section 6, of the Montana Constitution (three-fourths);

(6) a motion to temporarily suspend a joint rule governing the procedure for handling bills pursuant to Joint Rule 60-10(2) (two-thirds).

Members Present and Voting

(1) a motion to override the Governor's veto pursuant to H40-260 and Article VI, section 10(3), of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(2) a call of the House with a quorum pursuant to H50-40(1) (one-third);

(3) a motion to lift a call of the House pursuant to H50-30(3) or H50-40(4) (two-thirds);

(4) a motion to rerefer a bill from one committee to another pursuant to H40-80(1) (three-fifths);

(5) a motion to withdraw a bill from a committee pursuant to H40-90 (three-fifths);

(6) a motion to add legislation to the second or third reading agenda on that day pursuant to H40-130(2) (three-fifths);

(7) a motion to remove legislation from its normal progress through the House as provided under H40-80(3) and reassign it unless otherwise specifically provided by these rules, such as H40-80(2) (three-fifths);

(8) a motion to change a vote pursuant to H50-210 (unanimous);

(9) a motion to call for cloture pursuant to H40-170(2) (two-thirds);

(10) a motion to approve a bill conferring immunity from suit as described in Article II, section 18, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds);

(11) a motion to amend rules pursuant to H70-10(2) or suspend rules pursuant to H70-30 (two-thirds);

(12) a motion to overturn an adverse committee report pursuant to H40-100(2) (three-fifths);

(13) a motion to record a vote pursuant to H50-200(2) (one representative);

(14) a motion to record a vote in the journal (two representatives);

(15) an appeal of the ruling of the presiding officer pursuant to H20-20(1) or H20-80(2) (three representatives);

(16) a motion to speak more than once on a debatable motion pursuant to H50-80(1) (unanimous vote);

(17) a motion to appeal the presiding officer's interpretation of the rules to the House Rules Committee pursuant to H70-50 (15 representatives).

Entire Legislature

(1) a motion to approve a bill proposing to amend the Montana Constitution pursuant to Article XIV, section 8, of the Montana Constitution (two-thirds of the entire Legislature).

H50-170. Reconsideration — time restriction. (1) Any representative may, within 1 legislative day of a vote, move to reconsider the House vote on any matter still within the control of the House.

(2) A motion for reconsideration, unless tabled or replaced by a substitute motion, must be disposed of when made.

(3) When a motion for reconsideration fails, the question is finally settled. A motion for reconsideration may not be renewed or reconsidered.

(4) A motion to recall legislation from the Senate constitutes a motion to reconsider and is subject to the same rules.

(5) A motion for reconsideration is not in order on a vote to postpone to a day certain or to table legislation.

(6) There may be only one reconsideration vote on a specific issue on a legislative day.

H50-180. Renewing procedural motions. The House may renew a procedural motion if further House business has intervened.

H50-190. Tabling. (1) Under Order of Business No. 9, a representative may move to table any question, motion, or legislation before the House except the question of a quorum or a call of the House. The motion is nondebatable and may not be amended.

(2) When a matter has been tabled, a representative may move to take it from the table under Order of Business No. 9 on any legislative day.

H50-200. Voting — conflict of interest — present by electronic means. (1) The representatives shall vote to decide any motion or question properly before the House. Each representative has one vote.

(2) The House may, without objection, use a voice vote on procedural motions that are not required to be recorded in the journal. If a representative rises and objects, the House shall record the vote.

(3) The House shall record the vote on all substantive questions. If the voting system is inoperable, the Chief Clerk shall record the representatives' votes by other means.

(4) A member who is present shall vote unless the member has disclosed a conflict of interest to the House.

(5) A member may be present for a vote by electronic means.

H50-210. Changing a vote — consent required. (1) A representative may move to change the representative's vote within 1 legislative day of the vote. The motion is nondebatable. The motion must be made on Order of Business No. 9, motions. All of the members present and voting are required to consent to the change in order for it to be effective.

(2) The representative making the motion shall first specify the bill number, the question, and the original vote tally. A

vote may not be changed if it would affect the outcome of legislation.

(3) A vote change must be entered into the journal as a notation that the member's vote was changed. The original printed vote will not be reprinted to reflect the change.

(4) An error caused by a malfunction of the voting system may be corrected without a vote.

H50-220. Absentee votes — restrictions. (1) An excused representative may file an absentee vote authorization form to vote during the excused absence on any vote for which absentee voting is allowed.

(2) An excused representative shall sign an absentee vote authorization form that specifies the motion and the desired vote.

(3) The absentee vote authorization form must be handed in at the rostrum by the party whip or designated representative before voting on the motion has commenced.

(4) The absentee vote authorization may be revoked before the vote by the member who signed the authorization.

(5) Absentee voting is not allowed on third reading or on motions specified as present and voting pursuant to H50-70.

H50-230. Recess. The House may stand at ease or recess under any order of business by order of the Speaker or a majority vote. The recess may be ended at the call of the chair or at a time specified.

H50-240. Adjournment for a legislative day. (1) A representative may move that the House adjourn for that legislative day. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

(2) A motion to adjourn for a legislative day must specify a date and time for the House to convene on the subsequent legislative day.

H50-250. Adjournment sine die. Subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution, a representative may move that the House adjourn for the session. The motion is nondebatable and may be made under any order of business except Order of Business No. 7.

CHAPTER 6

Motions

H60-10. Proposal for consideration. (1) Every question presented to the House or a committee must be submitted as a definite proposition.

(2) A representative has the right to understand any question before the House and, under the authority of the presiding officer, may ask questions to exercise this right.

H60-20. Nondebatable motions. The following motions, in addition to any other motion specifically designated, must be decided without debate:

- (1) to adjourn;
- (2) for a call of the House;
- (3) to recess or rise;
- (4) for parliamentary inquiry;
- (5) to table or to take from the table;
- (6) to call for the previous question or for cloture;
- (7) to amend a nondebatable motion;
- (8) to divide a question;
- (9) to suspend the rules; and
- (10) all incidental motions, such as motions relating to voting or of a general procedural nature.

H60-30. Motions allowed during debate. (1) When a question is under debate, only the following motions are in order. The motions have precedence in the following order:

- (a) to adjourn;
 - (b) for a call of the House;
 - (c) to recess or rise;
 - (d) for a question of privilege;
 - (e) to table or take from the table;
 - (f) to call for the previous question or cloture;
 - (g) to postpone consideration to a day certain;
 - (h) to refer or rerefer; and
 - (i) to propose amendments.
- (2) This section does not allow a motion that would not otherwise be allowed under a particular order of business.

(3) Only one substitute motion is in order at any time.

H60-40. Motions to adjourn or recess. (1) A motion to adjourn or recess is always in order, except:

(a) when the House is voting on another motion;

(b) when the previous question has been ordered and before the final vote;

(c) when a member entitled to the floor has not yielded for that purpose; or

(d) when business has not been transacted after the defeat of a motion to adjourn or recess.

(2) A motion to adjourn sine die pursuant to H50-250 is subject to Article V, section 10(5), of the Montana Constitution.

(3) The vote by which a motion to adjourn or recess is carried or fails is not subject to a motion to reconsider.

H60-50. Motion to table. (1) A motion to table, if carried, has the effect of postponing action on the proposition to which it was applied until superseded by a motion to take from the table.

(2) After a vote on a motion to table is carried or fails, the motion cannot be reconsidered.

(3) A motion to table is not in order after the previous question has been ordered.

H60-60. Motion to postpone. A motion to postpone to a day certain may be amended and is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion to postpone may not be debated.

H60-70. Motion to refer. When a motion is made to refer a subject to a standing committee or select committee, the question on the referral to a standing committee must be put first.

H60-80. Terms of debate on motion to refer or rerefer. (1) A motion to refer or rerefer is debatable within narrow limits. The merits of the proposition that is the subject of the motion may not be debated.

(2) A motion to refer or rerefer with instructions is fully debatable.

H60-100. Moving the previous question after a motion to table. (1) If a motion to table is made directly to a main motion, a motion for the previous question is not in order.

(2) If an amendment to a main motion is pending and a motion to table is made, the previous question may be called on the main motion, the pending amendment, and the motion to table the amendment.

H60-110. Standard motions. The following are standard motions:

(1) moving House bills or resolutions on second reading, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration House Bill ___, that it recommend the same (do pass)/(do pass as amended)/(do not pass)."

(2) moving Senate bills and Senate amendments to House bills, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that when this committee does rise and report after having under consideration Senate Bill ___/Senate amendments to House Bill ___, that it recommend the same (be concurred in)/(be not concurred in)."

(3) Committee of the Whole floor amendments, "Mister/Madam Chairman, I move that House Bill ___/Senate Bill ___ be amended and request that the amendment be posted and deemed read."

(4) introducing visitors, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, I request that we be off the record and out of the journal."

(5) changing a vote, "Mister Speaker, I would like my vote changed on House Bill ___/Senate Bill ___ from (yes/no) to (yes/no). The question on the bill was () with a vote tally of ___ for and ___ against."

(6) question another representative, "Mister/Madam Speaker/Chairman, would Representative ___ yield to a question?"

CHAPTER 7

Rules

H70-10. House rules — amendment — report timing.

(1) The House may adopt, through a House resolution passed by a majority of its members, rules to govern its proceedings.

(2) After adoption of the House rules, two-thirds of the representatives voting must vote in favor of the question to amend the rules.

(3) The Speaker shall refer to the House Rules Committee all resolutions for House rules.

(4) The House Rules Committee shall report all resolutions for House rules within 1 legislative day of referral.

H70-20. Tenure of rules. Rules adopted by the House remain in effect until removed by House resolution or until a new House is elected and takes office.

H70-30. Suspension of rules. The House may suspend a House rule on a motion approved by not less than two-thirds of the members voting.

H70-40. Supplementary rules. Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000) governs House proceedings in all cases not covered by House rules.

H70-50. Interpreting rules — appeal. The Speaker shall interpret all questions on House rules, subject to appeal by any 15 representatives to the House Rules Committee. Unless the delay would cause legislation to fail to meet a scheduled deadline, the House Rules Committee may consider and report on the appeal on the next legislative day. The decision of the House Rules Committee may be appealed to the House by any representative.

H70-60. Joint rules superseded. A House rule, insofar as it relates to the internal proceedings of the House, supersedes a joint rule.

Appendix

(1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (4), legislation dealing with an enumerated subject must be referred to a standing committee as follows:

Agriculture: Agriculture; country of origin labeling for products; crops; crop insurance; farm subsidies; fuel produced from grain; grazing (other than state land leases); irrigation; livestock; poultry; and weed control.

Appropriations: Appropriations for the Legislature, general government, and bonding, including supplemental appropriations and the coal severance tax.

Business and Labor: Alcohol regulation other than taxation; associations; corporations; credit transactions; employment; financial institutions; gambling; insurance; labor unions; partnerships; private sector pensions and pension plans; professions and occupations other than the practice of law; salaries and wages; sales; secured transactions; securities regulation other than criminal provisions; sports other than hunting, fishing, and competition water sports; trade regulation; unemployment insurance; the Uniform Commercial Code; and workers' compensation.

Education: Higher education; home schools; K-12 education; religion in schools; school buildings and other structures; school libraries and university system libraries; school safety; school sports; school staff other than teachers; school transportation; students; teachers; and vocational education and training.

Ethics: Ethical standards applicable to members, officers, and employees of the House and ethical standards for lobbyists.

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications: Energy generation and transmission; Indian reservations; international relations; interstate cooperation and compacts, except those relating to law enforcement and water compacts; relations with the federal government; relations with sovereign Indian tribes; telecommunications; and utilities other than municipal utilities.

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks: Fish; fishing; hunting; outdoor recreation; parks other than those owned by local governments; relations with federal and state governments concerning fish and wildlife; Virginia City and Nevada City; water sports; and wildlife.

Human Services: Developmentally disabled persons; disabled persons; health; health and disability insurance; housing; human services; mental illness or incapacity; retirement other than pensions and pension plans; senior citizens; tobacco regulation other than taxation; and welfare.

Judiciary: Abortion; arbitration and mediation; civil procedure; constitutional amendments; consumer protection; contracts; corrections; courts; criminal law; criminal procedure; discrimination; evidence; family law; fees imposed by or relating to the court system; guaranty; human rights; impeachment; indemnity; judicial system; landlord and tenant; law enforcement; liability and immunity from liability; minors; practice of law; privacy; property law; religion other than in schools; state law library; surety; torts; and trusts and estates.

Legislative Administration: Interim committees and matters related to legislative administration, staffing patterns, budgets, equipment, operations, and expenditures.

Local Government: Cities; consolidated governments; counties; libraries and parks owned or operated by local governments; local development; local government finance and revenue; local government officers and employees, local planning; special districts and other political subdivisions, except school districts; towns; and zoning.

Natural Resources: Board of Land Commissioners; dams, except for electrical generation; emission standards; environmental protection; extractive activities; fires and fire protection, except for a local government fire department; forests and forestry; hazardous waste; mines and mining; natural gas; natural resources; oil; pollution; solid waste; state land, except state parks; water and water rights; water bodies and water courses; and water compacts.

Rules: House rules; joint rules; legislative procedure; jurisdictions of committees; and rules of decorum.

State Administration: Administrative rules; arts and antiquities; ballots; elections; initiative and referendum procedures; military affairs; public contracts and procurement; public employee retirement systems; state buildings; state employees; state employee benefits; state equipment and property, except state lands and state parks; state government generally; state-owned libraries other than the state law library; veterans; and voting.

Taxation: Taxes other than fuel taxes.

Transportation: Fuel taxes; highways; railroads; roads; traffic regulation; transportation generally; vehicles; and vehicle safety.

(2) If a select committee is created to address a specific subject, then bills relating to that subject must be assigned to the select committee.

(3) (a) If legislation deals with more than one subject and the subjects are assigned to more than one committee, the bill must be assigned to a class one committee before a class two committee and to a class two committee before a class three committee. If there is a conflict of subjects between the same class of committees, then the bill must be assigned by the Speaker.

(b) If a bill contains substantive provisions dealing with policy and an appropriation, the bill must be referred to the committee with jurisdiction over the subject addressed in the policy provisions. If the bill is reported from the committee to which it was assigned, the Speaker may rerefer the bill to the Appropriations Committee. The referral must be announced to the House. The rereferral does not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a majority vote.

(4) If a committee chair upon consultation with the vice chair determines that the committee cannot effectively process all bills assigned to the committee because of time limitations, the chair shall, in writing, request the Speaker to reassign specific bills. The Speaker shall reassign the bills to an appropriate committee. The reassignments must be announced to the House. The reassignments do not require action or approval by the House, but may be overturned by a three-fifths vote.

INDEX TO RULES

A

Adjournment, 10-40

- call of the house lifted by, H50-30, H50-40
- consent of other chamber required, when 10-40, 20-10
- day to day, S50-10
- floor admittance before or after, S20-50
- legislative day, for, H50-240
- lobbying limitations, H20-30
- motion to adjourn, See **Motions**
- quorum, without, H50-20
- sine die, H50-250, H60-40

Administrative Rules—legislation requesting or advising adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-50, 40-60
transmittal deadline, 40-200**Agenda, See also Calendar; Consent calendar**

- change order of placement on, motion to, S50-160, H40-160
- second and third readings, S40-60, H10-20, H40-190
 - add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 - consent calendar legislation, H40-110

Agriculture, Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)**Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation—Committee on, 30-70, S30-20****Aides, See Legislative aides****Amendments**

- agendas, H10-20, H40-130
- bill drafting manual, conformance, 10-120, H40-150
- clerical errors, correction, 10-120
- Committee of the Whole, 40-150, S50-150, H40-140, H40-150, H60-110
 - consideration, S50-140, H40-150
 - governor's recommendations for amendments, applicability, 40-230
 - preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- committees, by, 40-120, 40-140, 40-150, S30-70, H30-50, H40-100
- conference committees, 30-30, 40-170, H40-220
- constitutional, See **Constitution**,
 - Montana—amendments; Constitution, United States—amendments**
- engrossed bills, inclusion, 40-150
- “engrossing” defined, 10-120, H40-190
- existing statutes, 10-130, 40-80, 40-160
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- general appropriations bill, H40-180

Amendments (continued)

- governor's recommendations for, 40-230, S50-240, H40-250
- journal entry, S10-170, S50-150
- motions for, See **Motions**
- preparation of, S50-150, H40-150
- previous question, call for—effect, S50-80
- prohibited when, 40-170, S40-40, H50-20
- purpose of bill, change by—prohibited, 40-90
- question the lack of quorum, prohibited, H50-20
- recede from, second house requested to, H40-220
- recording of text of proposed amendments, 10-150
- rejection, 40-170, S50-150, S50-240, H40-150, H40-220, H40-250
- rules
 - house, 60-10, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10
 - joint, 40-60, 60-10
 - senate, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A
- second house, by, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220, H60-110
- second reading
 - incorporation into printed copy, 40-140
 - second house amendments, 40-150, S50-230
- segregated legislation, H40-140
- striking out all material following enacting clause, amendment by, 40-120
- striking out and inserting words, amendment by, 10-130
 - enrolling procedure, 40-160
 - errors, correction, 10-120
- substitute bills as, 40-120
- third reading of bills
 - amendments prohibited, S40-40, H40-200
 - second house amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220
- transmittal deadline, 40-200
- votes on, 40-170, S50-150, H40-220

Amendments coordinator, responsibilities, 10-120, H40-150

Appeals

- call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90
- committee chairman's decisions on questions or order, H30-20
- dilatory motions or questions, decision concerning, H20-50
- order and privilege, questions of, S20-10, H20-20
- parliamentary inquiries, responses to—no appeal, H20-20

Appeals (continued)

presiding officers

decision of, S50-60

rules, interpretation of, H50-160

ruling by, S-Appendix A, H50-160

previous question, call for—effect, S50-80

recognition of member to speak—decision concerning,
no appeal, H20-10, H20-20

rules

committee on—decisions by, H70-50

interpretation of, H50-160, H70-50

violation of, S20-20

ruling on dividing a question, H50-140

Appropriation bills

amendments

general appropriations bill, to, H40-180

transmittal deadline, 40-200

committee consideration of general, 30-50

consent calendar, exception, H40-110

fiscal notes, nonapplicability, 40-100

fund transfers not, 40-200

general appropriation act, bills implementing provisions

drafting request deadline, 40-50

transmittal deadline, 40-200

general appropriations act, reduction in specific

appropriation for bill reducing revenue, 40-180

general appropriations bill, consideration, 30-50

debate, questions, and amendment, H40-180

introduction, 40-20, 40-50

senate, prohibited in, S40-10

line item veto, 40-210

origin, house of, 40-20

policy and appropriation, bills dealing with—referral
and rereferral, H(Appendix)

transmittal deadline, 40-200

**Appropriation of public funds for public purpose,
statutes for—effective date, 40-30****Appropriation required for bills requesting interim
studies, 40-65****Appropriations, Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)**

appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50

chair, 30-50, H40-180

legislature, appropriation bills for

operation—introduction, 40-20

general appropriations bill, debate—special provisions,
H40-180

interim committees, selection, 30-70

- Appropriations, Committee on** (continued)
 - policy and appropriation, bills dealing with—referral and rereferral, H(Appendix)
 - subcommittees, 30-50, H30-10, H40-180
- Arrest of members**, S50-220
- Attendance**, S10-100, S10-120, H10-60, H10-80
 - of members compelled, S50-10, S50-220, H10-60, H10-80, H50-10—H50-30

B

- Backed bills**, 10-130, 40-40
- Bills**, See specific subject entries in this index
- Bill status system**, S40-20
- Blue-colored bills**, 40-150
- Budget Director**, fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- Budgets**, S10-80, H(Appendix)
- Business**
 - committee, quorum may transact, S30-40, H30-30
 - obstruction, dilatory motions or questions, H20-50
 - order of, See **Order of business**
 - pass business in Committee of the Whole, S50-60
 - pass to a new order of, S50-20
 - quorum, without—conduct prohibited, H40-160, H50-20
 - reports, signing of, S30-50
 - revert to a new order of, S50-20
 - suspended during
 - call of the house, H50-30, H50-40
 - call of the senate, S50-220
 - unfinished, S50-20, H50-60
- Business and Labor, Committee on**, H30-10, H(Appendix)
- Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs—Committee on**, 30-70, S30-20

C

- Calendar**, See also **Agenda**; **Consent calendar**
 - approval, S10-50, S10-140
 - communications, inclusion, S20-60
 - conference committee reports, S50-130
 - development of, S10-90, H10-50
 - third reading, 40-150, H40-190
- Called to order**, members, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90

Call of the House

- committee meetings during house session, members subject to, H30-40
- dilatory motions, nonapplicability, H20-50
- excused absence not leave with cause when, H50-10
- leave with cause, H50-40, H50-50
- lifted when, H50-30, H50-40
- motions, See **Motions**
- motion to lift, H50-160
- quorum
 - with, H50-40, H50-160
 - without, H40-160, H50-30
- remove, motion to, H50-30, H50-40
- sergeant-at-arms, duty, H10-110
- table, motion to—prohibited, H50-190

Call of the Senate, S50-220

- committee meetings during senate session, members subject to, S30-60
- committee reports not allowed, S50-120
- lift, motion to, S-Appendix A
- motions, See **Motions**
- previous question ordered, call not in order, S50-80
- quorum
 - order for, S50-220
 - with, S-Appendix A
- remove the call, motion to, S50-220

Cancelled bills—deadline missed, 40-50**Caucuses, S10-90—S10-120, H10-50—H10-80**

- nomination and election of officers, S10-70, S30-20, H10-10
- presiding officer or principal leader of, S10-90, S10-110, H10-50, H10-70

Cell phone use, S30-80, H30-60**Censure, 10-85, S20-20, H20-80, See also Discipline of****Chaplains, S50-20, H10-90, H50-60****Chief Clerk of the House, H10-100**

- appointment of, H10-90
- clerical corrections, notification and objection, 10-120
- committees, responsibilities, H10-90, H10-100, H30-20
- harassment violations reported to, 10-85
- introduction, legislation submitted for, 40-40, H40-30—H40-50
- journal, responsibilities, H10-100, H10-140
- messages from other house or elected officials, H40-40
- publication of committee appointments, responsible for, H30-10
- resolutions, responsibilities, 40-60, H10-100, H40-20

Chief Clerk of the House (continued)

rules, amendments to—responsibility, 60-10

rules, committee on—minutes and reports,
responsibility, 60-10

secretaries, supervision, H10-90

sergeant-at-arms, direction, H10-110

sponsor forms filed with, H40-30

transmittal of legislation or other matters, receipt for,
40-190, H40-40, H40-50

votes, recording, H50-200

Children, Families, Health, and Human Services

Interim Committee, 30-70

**Clerk of the Supreme Court, signed copies of enrolled
bills filed with, 40-160**

**Coal severance tax trust fund, motion to approve bill
to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160**

Code Commissioner bills, 40-40

**Color of paper indicates status of bill, 40-140, 40-150,
See also specific color**

**Committee of the Whole, See also Second reading of
bills**

amendments to legislation, 10-150, 40-150, S50-150,
H40-140, H40-150, H60-110

consideration, S50-140, H40-150

governor's recommendations for, applicability,
40-230

preparation of, S50-150, H40-150

call of the house prohibited, H40-160, H50-40

chair

appointment, S50-140

order during proceedings, S10-150

voting methods, S50-180

conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230

debate, limitations on, H40-170, H40-180

disorder, reporting, S50-170

formation and functions, S50-140, H40-140

motions, See **Motions**

pairing of votes prohibited in, S30-100, S50-210

pass business, motion to, S50-60

quorum

failure to have, H40-160

what constitutes, S50-10

recommendations by, H40-140

reconsider action, S30-140

reports, 40-150, S50-120, S50-140, H40-20, H40-140

resolutions, house—final passage, determination,
H40-20

Committee of the Whole (continued)

- second reading, See **Second reading of bills**
- segregated legislation, H40-140
- standing committee, report of bills to, S30-60
- statement of intent, See **Statement of intent**
- subcommittees, appointment prohibited, S50-170
- votes, recording and public record, 10-150, H10-150

Committees, Committee on—composition and appointment of committees, S30-10**Committees, generally**, 30-10—30-60, S30-10—S30-160, H30-10—H30-60, See also specific committee

- absentee or proxy votes, authorization, S30-100, H30-50
- amendments to legislation, by, 40-120, 40-140, 40-150, S30-70, H30-50, H40-100
- appointments to, S30-10
- chair/chairman

- business reports, signing of, S30-50
- cell phone use at discretion of, S30-80, H30-60
- duties, S30-20, S30-50—S30-80, H30-20, H30-40—H30-60
- governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
- hearing notices, dissemination, S30-60
- introduction of committee legislation, S30-150
- joint committees, 30-10, 30-50
- rereferral of bills, request for—when, H(Appendix)
- secretaries of committees, authority, S10-130, H10-90

sponsor of bill, principal, 10-120

classification of, S30-30, H30-10

class of committee, conflict of subjects between, H(Appendix)

- consideration, required, S30-60
- consolidation of bills, S30-70, H30-50
- cosponsors, adding to legislation, H40-30
- drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50
- executive action, S30-50, S30-60, S70-30
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100
- general appropriation act provisions, bills to implement, 40-50
- governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20, S70-30
- harassment violations reported to statutory committees, 10-85
- hearings, See **Hearings**
- indefinitely postponing measures, S50-110
- interim committees, 30-70, 40-40
- introduction of legislation by, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50

Committees, generally (continued)

- joint committees
 - appointments to, S30-10
 - appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50
 - bills heard in, referral, S30-60
 - chair of committee, 30-10, 30-50
 - executive action required on bills heard in, S30-60
 - referral of bills to, H40-70
 - requests for legislation, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140
 - voting in, 30-20
- majority leader of house as ex officio nonvoting member, H30-30
- majority leader of senate as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40
- meetings, S30-60, H30-10, H30-20, H30-40, H30-50
 - announcement, order of business, S50-20, H50-60
 - business reports reflecting action taken, S30-50
 - notice requirements, S30-60, H30-40
 - quorum, S30-40, H30-30
 - schedules, S30-20, H30-10
- membership, change—notice, S30-10
- minority leader of house as ex officio nonvoting member, H30-30
- minority leader of senate as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40
- minutes and exhibits, S10-130, S30-50, S30-60, H30-20, H30-40
 - chief clerk of the house, duties, H10-100
 - contents, S30-60, S30-70, H30-40
 - votes, absentee or proxy—authorization noted, S30-100, H30-50
 - votes, entry, 10-150
- motions offered in, S30-70, H30-50
- presiding officer, chair as, S30-50
- privileges of committee members, S30-70, H30-50
- procedures, S30-70, H30-50
- questions, submission as definite proposition, H60-10
- quorum, S30-40, H30-30
- recommendation requirements, S30-70, H30-50
- reconsideration of previous action, S30-70, S30-140, H30-50
 - not allowed when, S50-120
- records, S30-80, H30-60
- referral of legislation to committee
 - consent to take up, H30-50
 - first reading, prior to, S40-20, H40-40, H40-50
 - governor's nominations for appointment, S70-20

Committees, generally (continued)

- referral of legislation to committee (continued)
 - motion for, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30, H60-70
 - preintroduced legislation, S40-20
 - president of the senate, by, S10-50, S50-230
 - progression through house, H40-80
 - requesting committee, to, S30-150
 - required, S30-60, H40-70, H(Appendix)
 - rereferral, S30-60, S30-70, S40-60, S50-190, H30-50, H40-80, H(Appendix)
 - resolutions, house, H40-20
 - second house, by, 40-190, S50-230, H40-40, H40-50, H40-70
 - speaker of the house, by, H(Appendix)
 - sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
- reports, See **Reports of committees**
- rerefer, motion to, H40-80, H50-160, H60-30
- rereferral of legislation to, S30-60, S30-70, S40-60, S50-190, H30-50, H40-80, H40-140, H40-220, H(Appendix)
- revenue bills, drafting request deadline, 40-50
- rooms, S30-50, S30-80, H30-60
- scheduling of, meetings, S30-20, H30-10
- secretaries, S10-130, S30-80, H10-90
- select committees, See **Select committees**
- speaker of the house as ex officio, nonvoting member, H30-30
- special committees, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140, S30-10, H40-70
- sponsors of bills, committees as, S30-150
- standing committees, See **Standing committees**
- subcommittees, See **Subcommittees**
- substitute bills, recommendation, 40-120
- supervision of work, S30-50
- tabling of measures, 10-140, S30-70, S50-110, H30-50
- testimony, S30-50—S30-80, H20-60, H30-40, H30-60
- votes
 - absentee or proxy, authorization, S30-100, H30-50
 - members, privilege, S30-70, H30-50
 - pairing, S50-210
 - prohibited when, S30-100, S50-210
 - recording and public record, 10-150, S30-70, H10-150, H30-50
 - rereferrals, overturning—requirements, H(Appendix)
 - requests for drafting or introduction of legislation, requirement, S30-150, H30-50
 - tie votes, H30-50

Committees, generally (continued)

- withdraw legislation from, S40-60, H30-50
- motion to, H40-90, H50-160
- placement on second reading, H40-140
- witness must register, S30-80, H30-60

Communications and petitions, S20-60

- order of business, S50-20, H50-60

Compensation

- preparation and certification of payroll, 10-100
- signing of payrolls, 10-100, S10-50, H10-20
- unexcused absence, effect, S50-220

Conduct of members

- Committee of the Whole, discipline prohibited, S50-170
- conflict of interest, disclosure, 10-60
- questions of order and privilege, H20-20
- questions of privilege, S20-30
- speaker of the house, authority, H10-20

Conference committees, 30-30

- appointment, 30-30, S30-10, S50-230, H40-220
- dissolving, S50-130, H40-230
- free conference committees, 30-30, 40-230
- hearings, notice requirements, S30-60
- reports, 30-30, 30-40, S50-130, H40-230
- requests for, 30-30, 40-170, 40-230, S50-230, H40-220
- scope of, 30-30
- voting in, 30-20

Conflict of interest, disclosure, 10-60, H50-200**Consent calendar, H40-110**

- committee recommendation for placement on, H30-50, H40-110

Consent for adjournment or recess, 20-10**Consolidation of bills, S30-70, H30-50****Constitution, Montana—amendments**

- governor, veto or signature not required, 40-10, 40-210
- motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- proposal, 40-10
- tabling by committee, 10-140
- vote requirements, 10-140, S50-110

Constitution, United States—amendments

- governor's signature not required, 40-210
- resolutions to ratify or propose, 40-60

Copies of bills, number required

- enrolling, 40-160
- introduced bills, S40-20, H40-40

Corrections

- clerical, 10-120, 40-160
- journal errors, 10-160, S10-170, H10-140
- reference bills, 30-40
- vote errors caused by malfunction of voting system, S50-200, H50-210

Cosponsors, 40-40, S30-70, S40-30, H30-50, H40-30, See also **Sponsors**, bill

D

Day, legislative, See **Legislative day**

Deadlines, See also **Time**

- appropriation act, general—bills implementing provisions
 - drafting requests, 40-50
 - transmittal, 40-200
- appropriation bills and bills implementing provisions of general appropriation bills, transmittal, 40-200
- clerical corrections, filing of objections, 10-120
- committee legislation, drafting requests, 40-50
- drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50
- engrossing, 10-120, H40-190
- enrolling, 10-120, H40-240
- fiscal notes, 40-100
 - sponsor's fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
- governor
 - enrolled bills, transmittal to, 40-160
 - signing or veto of bills, 40-210
- introduction of legislation, 40-40 40-50, H40-10
- preintroduction of legislation, 40-40, H40-10
- resolutions
 - drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50
 - introduction, 40-50
- revenue bills
 - drafting requests, 40-50
- transmittal, 40-200, S40-20
 - committee hearing notice requirements, applicability, S30-60
 - governor, enrolled bills to, 40-160

Debate, See also **Speaking limitations**

- adverse committee reports, H40-100
- asking questions of members in, H50-100
- called to order, senator having been, S20-30
- close, to, S50-30, S50-60, S50-80, H40-170, H50-80, H50-150
- cloture, motion to call for, H40-160, H40-170, H50-90, H50-120, H50-160, H60-20, H60-30

Debate (continued)

- committee members, S30-70, H30-50
- Committee of the Whole, limitations during, H40-170
- committee recommendation, bills without—second reading, S30-70, H30-50
- committee reports, on, S50-120
- conference committee reports, H40-230
- consent calendar consideration, prohibited, H40-110
- end, motion to, H40-170, H50-150
- first reading, not in order, S40-20, H40-50
- general appropriations bill, H40-180
- governor
 - amendments, recommendations for, S50-240, H40-250
 - nominations for appointments, resolutions for—motions to approve or disapprove, S70-30
- house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230
- lead speaker during, majority leader as, S10-90, H10-50
- limits on, S50-30, S50-60, S50-80, H40-170, H40-180, H50-80, H60-20
- motions, See **Motions**
- postpone to a day certain, motion to—subject of, not debatable, H60-60
- predetermined amount of time and number of speakers, allocation, H40-170
- previous question, call for or adoption of motion for—debate closed, S50-80, H50-150
- question debatable on which there has been no debate, debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80
- questions, speaking limitation, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80
- refer or rerefer, motions to—subject of, not debatable, H60-60
- rules, senate—motion to amend or adopt, not required, S60-10
- senate amendments to house legislation, H40-220
- speak more than once, H50-80, H50-160
- speak more than twice, S50-30
- third reading, on—prohibited, H40-200
- words spoken, member called to order for, S20-20

Decorum, S20-10, S20-20, H20-10—H20-80

- committee meetings, S30-60, H30-40
- employees, complaints concerning, 10-80, S10-80
- president of the senate, authority, S10-50
- presiding officer's discretion on issues, 10-50
- speaker of the house, authority, H10-20

Discipline of

- employees, 10-80, 10-85, S10-80, H20-60

Discipline of (continued)

- harassment offenders, 10-85
- house members, H20-80
- senate members, S20-20, S50-170

Disorderly conduct, S10-50, S30-80, S50-170, H10-20, H30-60**Disturbance of proceedings**, S10-50, S30-80, S50-170, H10-20, H30-60**Doorkeeper**, supervision, H10-110**Drafting of legislation**

- appropriation bills, 40-50
- fiscal note recommendations, 40-100
- requests
 - agency requests, 40-40
 - cancellation, 40-40
 - committee requests, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150, H30-50
 - deadlines, 40-40, 40-50
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
 - limitation, exceptions, and prioritization, 40-40, S70-30
- resolutions, 40-40, 40-50, H40-20
- revenue bills, 40-50
- sponsor required, S40-10, See **Sponsors**, bill

Duplicate bills, introduction prohibited when, 40-70

E

Economic Affairs Interim Committee, 30-70**Education and Cultural Resources, Committee on**, 30-70, S30-20**Education and Local Government Interim Committee**, 30-70**Education, Committee on**, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)**Effective dates of legislation**, 40-30**Employees**

- appointment of, S10-130, H10-90
- complaints involving, S10-80
- dismissal, suspension, and/or retention, 10-80, S10-80, H20-60
- engrossing and enrolling staff, 10-120
- floor admittance, S20-50, H20-40
- harassment prohibited, 10-85
- interim status, S10-20
- joint, 10-80
- lobbying prohibited, H20-60
- personnel files, 10-100

Employees (continued)

- preparation of materials, S20-70, H20-70
- recommendation for employment, S10-130
- supervision, S10-50, S10-140, S10-150, H10-20, H10-100
- telephone use, 10-70
- term of office, S10-20
- testimony by, H20-60

Energy, Committee on, S30-20**Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee, 30-70****Engrossing, 40-150, H40-190**

- deadlines, 10-120, H40-190
- defined, 10-120, H40-190
- staff, hiring and duties, 10-120
- third reading following, S50-190, H40-190, H40-200

Enrolled legislation

- signing, 40-160, S10-50, H10-20, H40-240
- transmittal to other house, 40-160

Enrolling, 40-160, H40-240

- conference committee reports, clerical instructions, 30-40
- deadlines, 10-120, H40-240
- staff, hiring and duties, 10-120

Equipment, S10-80, S10-150, H(Appendix)**Errors**

- clerical, correction, 10-120
- engrossing, 40-150
- enrolling, 40-160, H40-240
- fiscal notes, technical or mechanical defects of bill noted in, 40-100
- journals, correction, 10-160, S10-170, H10-140
- vote, caused by malfunction of voting system—correction, S50-200, H50-210

Ethics, Committees on, S30-20, S30-160, H30-10, H(Appendix)**Excused absence of members**

- absentee votes, H50-220
- attendance required unless, S50-10, H50-10
- call of the house with a quorum, H50-40
- committee meetings
 - absentee or proxy votes, S30-100, H30-50
 - during house session, H30-40
 - during senate session, S30-60
- pairing of votes, S50-210
- unexcused absence, penalty, S50-220
- voting, from, S50-180, S50-210

Expenditures, S10-80, H10-30, H(Appendix)

F

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications—Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Final action on a bill, 40-180

Final passage, See **Passage**

Final rejection of legislation, 40-70, 40-180, S50-50

Finance and Claims, Committee on, S30-20

appropriation bills, consideration, 30-50

chair, 30-50

interim committees, selection, 30-70

introduction of legislation, request for drafting

or—majority vote required, S30-150

Fire marshal, posting of occupancy limitations, S30-80, H30-60

First reading of bills, 10-130, 40-130, S40-20, H40-40, H40-50

governor's nominations for appointments, S70-20

order of business, S50-20, H50-60

Fiscal notes, 40-65, 40-100, S30-70, H10-20, H30-50

rebuttal, sponsor's, 40-110

Fish and Game, Committee on, S30-20

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks—Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Floor action, S50-10—S50-230, H50-10—H50-250

Floor admittance, 10-50, S20-50, H10-110, H20-30, H20-40

Floor duties, S10-90, H10-50

Floor leaders, See **Majority floor leaders**; **Minority floor leaders**

Free conference committees, 30-30

Fund transfer not appropriation, 40-200

G

Galleries, clearance and order in, S10-50, H10-20, H10-110

Governor

amendments to legislation, recommendations for, 40-230, S50-240, H40-250

constitutional amendments, veto or signature not required, 40-10, 40-210

enrolled bills, delivery to and receipt, 40-160

Governor (continued)

line item veto, 40-210

messages from

journal entry, S10-170, H10-140

order of business, S50-20, S70-20, H50-60

veto messages, 40-210, 40-220

nominations for appointments, S70-10

committee process, S70-30

hearings and notice requirements, S30-60, S70-30

introduction and first reading, 40-50, S70-20

resolutions for, 40-50, S40-10, S70-30

resolutions, approval and signature not required, 40-60, 40-210

signing of bills and exceptions, 40-210

veto of bills, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, H40-260

constitutional amendments not subject to, 40-10, 40-210

failure to override does not constitute final rejection, 40-70

motion to override, vote requirement, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160

H

Harassment prohibited, 10-85

Hearings

committees, 40-190, S30-60, S30-70, S50-230, H30-40, H40-220

news media, access, S30-80, H30-60

notice requirements and exceptions, S30-60, S70-30, H30-40

scheduling, S30-50

testimony, S30-80, H30-60

conference committees, notice requirements, S30-60

governor's nominations for appointments, S30-60, S70-30

news media, access, 10-50, S30-80, H30-60

Highway revenue, motion to approve bill to appropriate for purposes other than therein described, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Highways and Transportation, Committee on, 30-70, S30-20

Historical Society, copies of minutes filed with, 10-150, S30-50, H10-100

Human Services, Committee on, 30-70, H30-10, H(Appendix)

I

Identical bills, introduction prohibited when, 40-70

Immunity from suit, motion to approve bill
conferring, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Interim

committees, 30-70, 40-40, H(Appendix)

employees, status, S10-20

future sessions, preparation for, S10-80, H(Appendix)
studies

appropriation required for bills requesting, 40-65

request for, 40-50, 40-60, 40-65,

resolutions for, 40-50, 40-60, 40-200

Internet access, 10-70

Interns, See **Legislative interns**

Introduction of and introduced legislation, 40-40,
40-130, S40-20, H40-80

agency bills, 40-40

appropriation bills, 40-20, 40-50, S40-10

“by request of the.....” phrase may not be added, H40-40

color of paper, 10-130

committee legislation, 40-40, S30-150, H30-50

deadlines, 40-50, H40-10

distribution, 10-130

duplicate bills, prohibited when, 40-70

endorsement with member’s name, 40-40, H40-40

finance and claims, committee on—request and
majority vote required, S30-150

fiscal note requirements, 40-100

fiscal note rebuttal, sponsor’s, 40-110

format of, 10-130

governor’s nominations for appointments, 40-50, S70-20

interim study resolutions, 40-50

jointly sponsored legislation, 40-40, H40-30

journal entry, S10-170, H10-140

notice, public, S40-20, H40-50

numbering, 40-40, S40-20, H40-40

other house, legislation from—what constitutes, H40-40

preintroduction, 40-40, S40-20, H40-10, H40-40

printing, 10-130, S40-20, S40-60

referral to committee, See **Committees**, generally

resolutions, 40-50, S40-10, S40-20, H40-20

review prior to, 40-40

senate, types allowed, S40-10

sponsors, See **Sponsors**, bill

withdrawal of, prohibited, 10-130

J

Joint committees, See Committees, generally

Joint resolutions, See Resolutions

Joint rules, See Rules

Joint sponsors, 40-40, H40-30, See also Sponsors, bill

Journals, 10-160, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140

amendments to legislation, entry, S10-170, S50-150

clerks, in both houses, training of, 10-100, S10-170

committee reports, entry, S10-170, H10-140

enrolled bills, entries, 40-160

report on, S50-20

roll call votes, entry, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110

secretary of state, delivery to, H10-100

signing, 10-170, S10-50, H10-20, H10-140

sponsors, bill—additional, entry, S40-30

supervision, H10-100

vote, motion to spread on the journal, H50-160

votes, entry, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S50-150, S50-200,

H10-140, H40-110, H50-200, H50-210

**Judiciary, Committees on, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10,
H(Appendix)**

L

Law and Justice Interim Committee, 30-70

Law Library, State—committee and subcommittee

minutes and exhibits, copy to, S30-50, H10-100

Laws, See Statutes

**Leadership, See also Majority floor leaders; Majority
leaders; Minority floor leaders; Minority leaders;
President of the Senate; President Pro Tempore of
the Senate; Presiding officers; Speaker of the
House; Speaker Pro Tempore of the House**

staff recommended by, S10-130

standing committees' workload, review by legislative
council—recommendations, S30-20, H30-10

Leave with cause

call of the house, during, H50-40, H50-50

excused absence is not, H50-10

**Legislation generally, 40-10—40-230, S40-10—S40-40,
S40-60, H40-10—H40-260**

**Legislative Administration, Committee on, S10-80,
S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)**

employees, responsibilities, S10-80, S10-130

president of the senate, advice and counsel to, S10-50

- Legislative agencies**, duties delegated to, H10-50
- Legislative aides**, S10-160, H10-120
 - lobbying prohibited, H20-60
 - telephone use, 10-70
 - testimony by, H20-60
- Legislative Council**, standing committee
 - workload—review and recommendations, S30-20, H30-10
- Legislative day**, 10-20, H10-160
 - adjournment for, H50-240
 - adverse committee reports, consideration, H40-100
 - agenda
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 - second and third readings, arrangement or amendment, H10-20, H40-190
 - calendar, approval, S10-50
 - committee hearings, notice requirements, S30-60
 - consent calendar legislation, posting, H40-110
 - engrossed legislation, third reading, H40-190
 - enrolled legislation
 - journal entry, 40-160
 - signing or certification, 40-160, H40-240
 - final day
 - engrossed legislation, third reading, H40-190
 - reading of legislation, S40-40, H40-60
 - report from committee and consideration on second reading, H40-140
 - fiscal notes, review by chief sponsor, 40-100
 - governor
 - amendments, recommendations for—consideration, S50-240, H40-250
 - nominations for appointments, resolutions for—consideration, S70-30
 - veto by, motion to override, S50-250, H40-260
 - introduction of legislation, requirements, 40-50, H40-10
 - opening, H50-60
 - president of the senate
 - absence for 2 or more days, effect, S10-60
 - to take chair when, S10-50
 - reading of legislation, one per day and exception, S40-40, H40-60
 - reconsideration vote on specific issue, one per day, H50-170
 - reconsider, motion to, S50-90, S50-120, H50-170
 - rules, house—committee report
 - on appeals from interpretation, H70-50
 - on resolutions for, H70-10
 - second reading consideration, time allowed between committee report and, H40-140

Legislative day (continued)

- take from the table, motion to, H50-190
- third reading, 40-150, H40-190
 - reconsider, motion to—further action, S50-90
- transmittal deadline of bills and resolutions, 40-200
- vote
 - motion to change, S50-200, H50-210
 - motion to reconsider, H50-170

Legislative interns, 10-90, H10-130

- lobbying prohibited, H20-60
- telephone use and internet access, 10-70
- testimony by, H20-60

Legislative Services Division, 10-100

- committee and subcommittee minutes and exhibits, S30-50, H10-100
- drafting requests—limitations, procedures, deadlines, and prioritization, 40-40, 40-50, S30-150
- engrossing and enrolling staff, hiring, 10-120
- enrolled bills, signed copies with chapter numbers filed with, 40-160
- fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, responsibilities, 40-100, 40-110
- journal, responsibilities, 10-100, 10-160, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140
- preintroduction of legislation, responsibilities, 40-40, S40-20
- preparation of
 - Committee of the Whole amendments, S50-150, H40-150
 - materials, S20-70, H20-70
- purchase orders and requisitions forwarded to, S10-80
- request to change or correct short title, S40-20
- rules
 - amendments, copies of motions and resolutions to division, 60-10
 - codification, publication, and distribution, 60-30
- rules, committees on—minutes and reports, copies to, 60-10
- senate, types of legislation allowed, S40-10
- sponsors, bill—additional, responsibilities, 40-40, S40-30

Lobbies, clearance and order in, S10-50, H10-20, H10-110**Lobbying**

- employees, interns, and aides—by, prohibited, H20-60
- harassment prohibited, 10-85
- limitations, H20-30
- rules, enforcement, S10-150

- Local government, bills having fiscal impact—fiscal**
 - note requirements, 40-100
- Local Government, Committees on, 30-70, S30-20,**
H30-10, H(Appendix)

M

- Majority floor leaders**
 - agenda, arrangement of legislation on, S40-60
 - call of member to order, S20-20
- Majority leader, S10-90, H10-10, H10-50**
 - call of member to order, H20-80
 - committee appointments, advice, S30-10
 - Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150
 - committees, as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40,
H30-30
 - debate, predetermined amount of time and number of
speakers—allocation, H40-170
 - procedural motions by, H50-70
 - secretaries, private, S10-130, H10-90
- Majority whips, S10-100, H10-10, H10-60**
- Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure (2000), use,**
60-20, S60-20, H70-40
- Media, See News Media**
- Meetings, See also Sessions**
 - appropriation bills, joint committee for consideration,
30-50
 - committee, S30-60, H30-40, H30-50
 - announcement, S50-20, H50-60
 - notice requirements and exceptions, S30-60, H30-40
 - quorum, S30-40, H30-30
 - conference committees, 30-20, 30-30
 - ethics committee, S30-160
 - news media, access, 10-50, S20-50, H20-40
 - place of, 10-40
 - rules, committees on, 30-20
 - time of, each house, 10-10
- Messages from the governor**
 - journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
 - order of business, S50-20, S70-20, H50-60
 - veto messages, 40-210, 40-220
- Messages from the other house, S50-20, H40-40, H50-60**
 - journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- Minority floor leaders**
 - call of member to order, S20-20
 - drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40

Minority leader, S10-110, S30-10, H10-10, H10-70

call of member to order, H20-80

committee appointments, advice, S30-10, H30-10

Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150

committees, as ex officio nonvoting member, S30-40,
H30-30

consent calendar, agreement for placement on, H40-110

debate, predetermined amount of time and number of
speakers—allocation, H40-170

secretaries, private, S10-130, H10-90

Minority whips, S10-120, H10-10, H10-80**Minutes**committees, 10-150, 30-30, S10-130, S30-50, S30-60,
S30-100, H10-100, H30-20, H30-40

filing with historical society, 10-150, S30-50, H10-100

rules, committees on, 60-10

subcommittees, H10-100

votes, entry, 10-150

Motionsabsentee or proxy votes, procedures, H30-50, H50-220
adjourn, to

in order when, S50-220, H50-30, H50-40, H60-40

legislative day, for, H50-240

nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

precedence, H50-120, H60-30

sine die, H50-250, H60-40

adverse committee reports

response to, S50-120

to overturn, H50-160

to reject, H40-100

agenda

change order of placement on, S50-160, H40-160

second or third reading, to add legislation, H40-130,
H50-160

amendability of motions, H50-110

call of the house, for (no), H50-110

with a quorum (no), H50-40

without quorum (no), H50-30

cloture, to call for (yes), H40-160

limitation, S50-70, H50-110

main motion, H60-100

nondebatable, motion to amend—nondebatable,
S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

number of amendments allowed, S50-70, H50-110

pass consideration, to (yes), H40-160

postpone to a day certain (yes), H60-60

previous question, for (no), H50-110

reconsider, to (yes), H40-160

Motions (continued)

amendability of motions (continued)

rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and
beg leave to sit again (yes), H40-160

table, to (no), H50-110, H50-190

take from the table, to (no), H50-110

withdrawal of motion prior to amendment, S50-40,
H50-130

amend, to

Committee of the Whole, in order during, S50-160,
H40-160, H60-110

general appropriations bill, H40-180

nondebatable, S50-60

precedence, H50-120, H60-30

roll call vote, 10-150

rules, 60-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A, H50-160

appeal of call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80

"be concurred in" or "be not concurred in", failure on
second reading—effect, H40-140

call of the house

amendment prohibited, H50-30, H50-40, H50-110
for, H50-30, H50-40, H50-90, H50-120

lift, to, H50-160

nondebatable, H50-30, H50-40, H50-90, H60-20

precedence, H50-120, H60-30

remove, to, H50-30, H50-40

without a quorum, H40-160, H50-30

call of the senate

amendment prohibited, S50-70

for, S50-50, S50-60

lift, to, S-Appendix A

remove the call, to, S50-220

change a vote, S50-60, H50-90

cloture, to call for

Committee of the Whole, in order during, H40-160,
H40-170

nondebatable, H50-90, H60-20

precedence, H50-120, H60-30

vote requirement, H40-170, H50-160

coal severance tax trust fund, to approve bill to
appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Committee of the Whole

allowed in, S50-160, H40-160

"be concurred in" or "be not concurred in", H40-140,
H60-110

"do pass", "do pass as amended", or "do not pass",
H40-140, H60-110

floor amendments, H60-110

formation of committee by, S50-140

Motions (continued)

Committee of the Whole (continued)

in order during, enumeration, H40-160

order of, S50-160, H40-160

pass business, to, S50-60

vote requirements, 10-150

committees

minutes, entry, S30-60, H30-40

offered in, S30-70, H30-50

withdraw a bill from, motion to, S40-60, H40-90,
H50-160

commit, to, S50-50

concurrence, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160

conference committees, to dissolve, S50-130, H40-230

consent calendar, to place on, H40-110

constitutional amendments, Montana—to approve bill
proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160

debatable, S50-160, H40-160

postpone to day certain, limitations, H60-60

reconsider, motion to, S50-90,

refer or rerefer, terms, H60-80

speaking limitation, H50-80

speak more than once, motion to, H50-160

debate

limit, extend the limits of, or to close, S50-60,
H60-20

motions during, S50-50, H60-30

of motions

general appropriations bill, to reopen a section,
H40-180

second reading, S50-160

speaking limitation, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80

to end, H40-170, H50-150

dilatory, H20-50

divide a question, to

allowed when, S50-100, H50-140

appeal of ruling, H50-140

nondebatable, H50-90, H60-20

not motion to segregate, S50-100

no vote required, S50-100

“do pass” or “do not pass”, failure on second
reading—effect, H40-140

first reading, not in order, S40-20, H40-50

general appropriations bill, to reopen a section for
amendment, H40-180

governor

nominations for appointments, resolutions for—to
approve or disapprove, S70-30

Motions (continued)

governor (continued)

veto by, to override, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A,
H40-260, H50-160

highway revenue, to approve bill to appropriate for
purposes other than therein described, S-Appendix A,
H50-160

immunity from suit, to approve bill conferring,
S-Appendix A, H50-160

incidental, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

journal entry, S10-170, H10-140

lay on the table, to

question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30,
H20-20

reconsider, motion to, S50-90

main motion, S50-70, S50-80, H60-100

modifying motions, S50-70

nonconcurrence, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160,
H40-160

nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120 H60-20

adjourn, to, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120, H60-20

legislative day, for, H50-240

sine die, H50-250, H60-40

amend nondebatable motion, to, S50-60, H50-90,
H60-20

appeal of call of member to order, S20-20, H20-80,
H50-90

call of the house, H50-90, H60-20

with a quorum, H50-40

without a quorum, H50-30

call of the senate, S50-60

change a vote, S50-60, H50-90

cloture, to call for, H40-160, H50-90, H60-20

Committee of the Whole, in, S50-160, H40-160

debate—limit, extend the limits of, or to close,
S50-60

divide a question, to, H50-90, H50-140, H60-20

incidental motions, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

lay on the table, to, S50-60

parliamentary inquiry, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

pass business in Committee of the Whole, to,
S50-60, H40-160

pass consideration, to, H40-160

previous question, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

procedural motions, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

question lack of quorum, H50-90

question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30,
H20-20

recess or rise, to, S50-60, H50-90, H50-120 H60-20

Motions (continued)

nondebatable (continued)

- reconsider, to, S50-120, H40-160
- rise, rise and report, or rise and report progress and
beg leave to sit again—to, S50-60, H40-160,
H50-90, H60-20
- rules, to suspend, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
- table, to, H50-90, H50-120 H50-190, H60-20
- take from the table, to, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
- vote, to change, S50-60, S50-200, H50-90 H50-210
- nonpassage, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- noxious weed management trust fund, to appropriate
principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- offering, procedures upon, S50-40, H50-70
- order of, S50-50, S50-90, H40-160 H50-120
- order of business, S50-20, H50-60, H50-70, H50-120,
H60-30
- parliamentary inquiry, for, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
- passage, to recommend, 10-150, S50-160, H40-160
- pass consideration, to, S50-160, H40-160
- postpone consideration to a day certain, H60-60
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - reconsider, motion to, H50-170
- postpone indefinitely, to
 - bills or resolutions indefinitely postponed, effect,
S50-50
 - Committee of the Whole, in order during, S50-160
 - roll call vote, 10-150
- previous question, to call for
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110
 - effect of adoption, H50-150
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - table, motion to—moving question after, H60-100
- privilege, question of—for, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30
- procedural
 - majority leader, by, H50-70
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - renewal, H50-180
 - voice vote, H50-200
- question another representative, H60-110
- question, debate of—motions allowable, S50-50
- question lack of quorum, H50-90
- recall legislation from other house, to, S50-90, H50-170
- recess, to
 - in order when, H60-40
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30

Motions (continued)

recess, to (continued)

 reconvening, revert to order of business specified in
 motion, S50-20

reconsider, to, S30-140, S50-90, S50-120, S50-160,
H50-170

 adjourn or recess, motion to—vote not subject to,
 H60-40

 committee action, S30-70, H30-50

 Committee of the Whole, in order during, H40-160

 committee report adoption, S50-120

 legislation indefinitely postponed, S50-50

 procedure, S50-90, H50-170

 renewal or reconsideration prohibited, H50-170

 third reading action, S50-90

refer, to, S50-50, H50-120, H60-30, H60-70, H60-80

remove legislation from normal progress through house
 and reassign, H50-160

renewal, H50-170, H50-180

rerefer, to, H40-80, H50-160, H60-30, H60-80

restatement, S50-40

rise, rise and report, rise and report progress and
 ask/beg leave to sit again—to, S50-160, H40-160,
 H60-110

rise, to, S50-60, S50-160, H40-160, H50-90, H50-120,
H60-20, H60-30

rules

 amend or adopt, to, 60-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A,
 H50-160

 presiding officer's interpretation, to appeal, H50-160

 suspend, to, S50-60, S50-200, S-Appendix A,
 H50-90, H50-160, H60-20, H70-30

second reading

 disposition by positive vote, S50-180

 standard motions, H60-110

seconds not required, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70

segregate legislation, to, S50-140, H40-140

 not motion to divide, S50-100

speaking on, limitations, S50-30, H40-170

speak more than once on debatable motion, motion to,
H50-160

sponsors, bill—to add, 40-40, S40-30

standard motions, H60-110

state debt, creation—to approve bill to authorize,
H50-160

subject different from that under consideration, motions
 not admitted, S50-50

subsidiary, S50-50, S50-80

Motions (continued)

- substitute, S50-50, S50-90, H50-120, H50-170, H60-30
- limitation, S50-70
- table, to
 - allowed when, H50-190
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110, H50-190
 - effect when carried, H60-50
 - nondebatable, H50-90, H50-190, H60-20
 - precedence, H50-120, H60-30
 - previous question, moving after, H60-100
 - reconsider, motion to, H50-170
- take from the table, to
 - allowed when, S30-70, H30-50, H50-190
 - amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110
 - nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - precedence, H60-30
 - reconsider, motion to, S50-90
 - table, motion to—superseded by, H60-50
- tobacco settlement trust fund, to approve bill to
 - appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- veto by governor, to override, 40-220, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160
- vote
 - relating to, nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20
 - to change, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160, H50-210, H60-110
 - to decide motions, H50-70, H50-200
 - to record, H50-160
 - to spread on the journal, H50-160
 - withdrawal of motion prior to, S50-40, H50-130
- withdraw a bill from committee, to, S40-60, H40-90, H50-160
- withdrawal of, S50-40, H50-130

Motor vehicle taxes or fees, statutes

- imposing—effective date, 40-30

N

Natural Resources, Committee on, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)

News media

- floor admittance, registration required, 10-50, S20-50, H20-40
- hearings and meetings, access, 10-50, S30-80, H30-60

Notice, See Public notice

Noxious Weed Management Trust Fund, motion to appropriate principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160

Numbering of legislation, 40-40, S40-20, H40-40
chapter numbers, 40-160
introduction, to constitute, S40-20, H40-40
pages of introduced bills, 10-130
preintroduced legislation, reservation for, H40-40

O

Objections

clerical errors, correction, 10-120
consent calendar legislation, H40-110
journal corrections, S10-170, H10-140
standing committee recommendations, form, H40-100
voice vote on procedural motions, to, H50-200

Officers, S10-10, S10-30, S10-90—S10-150, H10-10,
H10-50, See also specific officer
election, S10-10, S10-60, H10-10
floor admittance, S20-50
term of office, S10-20

Operations, S10-80, H(Appendix)
appropriation bills for, 40-20

Order and privilege, points of, S30-70, H30-50

Order during proceedings

committees
chairman, duties, S30-60, S30-70, H30-20, H30-40,
H30-50
members, privileges, S30-70, H30-50
rooms, S30-50
president of the senate, authority, S10-50, S10-150
presiding officer's discretion on issues, 10-50
senate members, misconduct, S50-170
sergeants-at-arms, duties, S10-150, H10-110
speaker of the house, authority, H10-20

Order, members called to, S20-20, H20-80, H50-90

Order of business, S50-20, H50-60

adjourn for a legislative day, motion to, H50-240
adjourn sine die, motion to, H50-250
adverse committee reports, debate, H40-100
committee reports, reading, S50-120, H50-60
conference committee
meetings, announcement, 30-30
reports, S50-130, H40-230
consent calendar legislation, H40-110
governor
amendments, recommendations for, S50-240,
H40-250
nominations for appointments, S70-20, S70-30

Order of business (continued)

governor (continued)

veto by, announcement and motion to override,
S50-250, H40-260

house amendments to senate legislation when returned
to senate, S50-230

motions, S50-20, H50-60, H50-70, H50-120, H50-210,
H60-30

pass to new order of business, S50-20

recess or stand at ease, H50-230

reconsider or recall

committee report, S50-120

legislation, motions to, S50-90

reconvening after recess, S50-20

revert to new order of business, S50-20

senate amendments to house legislation when returned
to house, H40-220

sponsors, bill—additional, noted for record, H40-30

table, motion to, H50-190

take from the table, motion to, H50-190

third reading, S50-20, S50-190, H40-110, H50-60

vote, motion to change, H50-210

votes, recorded—manner of making, S50-180

Order, points of, S30-70, H30-50**Order, questions of, S20-10, H20-20****Orders of the day, special—order of business, S50-20,
H50-60**

consent calendar legislation, H40-110

recognition of individual or group achievements, 40-60

Original bill

enrolling, 40-160

sponsors, additional, S40-30

substitution of new material, 40-120

Other house

amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230,
H40-200, H40-220, H60-110

governor's recommendations for amendments, 40-230

house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230

introduction of legislation, what constitutes, S40-20,
H40-40

messages from, S10-170, S50-20, H10-140, H40-40,
H50-60

recall legislation from, motion to, S50-90, H50-170

referral of legislation to committee, S40-20, H40-70

rejection of legislation, 40-180

relations with, 20-10

Other house (continued)

- rules, committee on—reports for amendment of rules, referral, 60-10
- schedules, coordination, 10-30
- senate amendments to house legislation, H40-200, H40-220, H60-110
- senate legislation in house, treatment, S50-230, H30-50, H40-40, H40-50, H40-70, H40-210, H60-110
- third reading, 40-180

P

Pages, supervision, H10-110

Papers, distribution, S20-70, H10-110, H20-70

Parking regulations, enforcement, H10-110

Passage**final**

- majority vote for, questions or legislation requiring more than, S50-110, S50-130, S50-240, H40-120
- referral to committee required, H40-70
- resolutions, house, H40-20
- vote requirements, 10-140, 10-150, S50-110, H10-140, H40-120, H40-250
- governor, submission to for signature, 40-210
- second reading, recommendation for, 10-150, 40-140
- three readings of legislation required prior to, 40-130, S40-40

Payroll or per diem, See Compensation

Petitions and communications, order of business, S50-20, H50-60

Preintroduction of legislation prior to session, 40-40, S40-20, H40-10, H40-40

Preparation of materials, request for, S20-70, H20-70

Presession expenditures, approval, H10-30

President-elect of the Senate, responsibilities and authority, S10-70

President of the Senate, S10-30, S10-50, S10-60, See also

Presiding officers

- assistance to, by majority leader, S10-90
- calendar, duties, S10-50, S10-90, S10-140, S20-60
- call of member to order, S20-20
- Committee of the Whole, chair—appointment, S50-140
- committees, responsibilities, S30-60, S30-70
- communications to senate, S20-60

President of the Senate (continued)

- conference committees
 - appointment, S30-10
 - dissolving, S50-130
- contracts for equipment and supplies, approval, S10-80
- drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40
- election of, S10-30
- employees, duties, S10-50, S10-80, S10-130, S20-70
- floor, admittance—duties, S20-50
- governor's nominations for appointments, receipt and referral, S70-20
- journal, duties, 10-170, S10-50, S10-170
- papers, distribution—approval, S20-70
- purchase orders and requisitions, approval, S10-80
- questions of order, to decide, S20-10
- referral of transmitted bills to committee, 40-190
- rereferral of legislation to committee, S50-230
- secretary, S10-130
- secretary of the senate, supervision, S10-140
- sergeant-at-arms, supervision, S10-150
- special committees, appointment, S30-10
- succession, S10-60
- third reading procedure, S50-190

President Pro Tempore of the Senate, S10-30, S10-50, S10-60**Presiding officers, S10-50, See also President of the Senate; Speaker of the House**

- appeal of ruling by, S50-60, S-Appendix A, H50-140, H50-160
- clerical correction of bills, 40-160
- committee chairs, S30-50
- consent calendar consideration, announcement, H40-110
- decisions nondebatable, S50-60
- engrossing and enrolling bills, approval of time extension, 10-120
- enrolled bills, responsibilities, 40-160, S10-50
- fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, responsibilities, 40-100, 40-110
- harassment violations reported to, 10-85
- motions
 - dilatory, decision concerning, H20-50
 - restatement, S50-40
- news media subject to discretion of, 10-50
- order, senators called to, S20-30
- payrolls, certification and signature, 10-100
- previous question ordered, determination of lack of quorum, S50-80

Presiding officers (continued)

questions

dilatory, decision concerning, H20-50

representatives may ask of other representatives,
H50-100right to understand, representative's, H50-90,
H60-10

recognition of members to speak, S20-40, H20-10

rules, interpretation—appeal of, H50-160

schedules, coordination, 10-30

third reading procedure, S50-190

veto message read by, 40-220

voting by, S10-40

Press representatives, See News media**Printed matter, distribution, S20-70, H10-110, H20-70****Printing**

journals, S10-170

legislation

color of paper, 40-140, 40-150

consent calendar items, H40-110

engrossed bills, 40-150

enrolling, 40-160

first sheet only, when, 40-140, 40-150

fiscal notes and sponsor's rebuttal, 40-100, 40-110

introduced bills, 10-130

original legislation, 10-130,

preintroduced legislation, 40-40, S40-20

second house amendments, 40-150

second reading, 40-140, S40-60, H40-110, H40-190

sponsors, additional—inclusion, S40-30

substitute bills, 40-120

third reading, H40-110, H40-190

Privilege and order, points of, S30-70, H30-50**Privilege, questions of, S20-30, S50-50, H20-20, H50-120,
H60-30****Privileges, committee members, S30-70, H30-50****Program development, policy formation, and policy
decisions, assistance with, S10-90, H10-50****Progress, tracking of bill, space for notation of, 10-130****Processes and writs, service, H10-110****Publications**

journals, 10-170, S10-170, H10-140

rules, 60-30

supervision, H10-100

Public, committee meetings open to, S30-60, H30-40

Public Health, Welfare, and Safety—Committee on,
30-70, S30-20

Public, information available to
committee minutes, S30-60, H30-40
hearings, S30-60
introduced legislation, S40-20, H40-50
journals, 10-170, S10-170
voting records, 10-150, H10-150

Public notice
committees
hearings, S30-60
meetings, S30-60, H30-40
governor's nominations for appointments, hearings,
S30-60, S70-30
introduced legislation, S40-20, H40-50

Public record, voting records as, 10-150, H10-150

Purpose of bill
original, change prohibited, 40-90, H40-150
same purpose, bills with—introduction or receipt after
rejection, 40-70

Q

Questions

answers, questions and—no limit, H50-100
asking, H50-90, H50-100, H60-10, H60-110
committees
chairman, duties, H30-20
procedure, S30-70, H30-50
consent calendar consideration, H40-110
debatable question on which there has been no debate,
debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80
debate closed upon adoption of motion for previous
question, H50-150
dilatory, H20-50
divide a
motion to, nondebatable, H50-90, H60-20
request to, allowed when, S50-100, H50-140
appeal of ruling, H50-140
general appropriations bill, concerning, H40-180
main question, S50-80
majority vote, requiring other than, S50-110,
S-Appendix A, H50-160
nondebatable, S50-60, H50-20
order or privilege—precedence, decision, and appeal,
S20-10, H20-20, H30-30
pairing of votes, S50-210
postponed indefinitely, S50-50

Questions (continued)

previous

adjourn, motion to—not in order when, H60-40

call for, S50-80, H60-100

call for, motion to

amendment prohibited, S50-70, H50-110

effect of adoption, H50-150

nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

not in order when, H60-100

precedence, H50-120, H60-30

call of the senate not in order, S50-80

debatable question on which there has been no
debate, ordered for, S50-80question of privilege not allowed when, S20-30,
H20-20

recess, motion to—not in order when, H60-40

table, motion to—not in order when, H60-50

privilege, questions of, S20-30, S50-50, H20-20,
H50-120, H60-30

quorum

lack of, H50-20

motion to table prohibited, H50-190

reconsider, motion to, S50-90

right to understand, H50-90, H60-10

rules

adherence to, when, S40-20, H40-50

amendment of house rules, H70-10

interpretation of house rules, H70-50

speaking on, limitations, S50-30, H40-170, H50-80

submission as definite proposition, H60-10

table, motion to, H50-190

third reading, state the question on, S50-190, H40-200

vote to decide, S50-180, H50-200

Quorum

call of the house

with, H50-40, H50-160

without, H40-160, H50-30

call of the senate

order for, S50-220

with, S-Appendix A

committees, S30-40, H30-30

lack of, S50-80, S50-220, H40-160

previous question ordered, determination of lack of,
S50-80

question of lack of, H50-20, H50-90

second reading, required for, H40-160

table, motion to—prohibited, H50-190

what constitutes, S50-10, H50-20

R

Reading

- motions, when written, S50-40
- one reading of legislation per day, H40-60
- three readings of legislation required, 40-130, S40-40
- veto messages, 40-220

Recess, 10-40, 20-10 H50-230

- consent of other chamber required, when, 20-10
- governor's appointments during, S70-10
- motion to, See **Motions**

Reconsideration

- committees
 - previous action, S30-70, S30-140, H30-50
 - reports, action on adoption, S50-120
- conference committee reports, rejection, H40-230
- governor, by, 40-230
- motion to reconsider, See **Motions**
- segregated legislation, amendments adopted on, H40-140
- vetoed bills, 40-210
- vote on specific issue, one per day, H50-170

Reconvening

- after recess, order of business reverted to, S50-20
- vetoed bills, for consideration, 40-210

Records

- amendments, proposed—text, 10-150
- house, H10-100
 - official record, H10-140
 - amendments, rejected—as part of, H40-150
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- secretary of state, delivery to, H10-100
- senate, S10-140
- supplies and equipment, purchase and disposal, S10-150
- testimony as part of official record, S30-80, H30-60
- votes, recording and public availability, 10-150, S50-180, H10-150

Reference bills, 40-150

- conference committee reports, clerical instructions, 30-40

Referendum measures

- governor's signature not required, 40-210
- preintroduction, 40-40
- secretary of state, transmittal to, 40-160
- transmittal deadline, 40-200

Referral of legislation to committee, See Committees, generally

Rejection

- amendments, 40-170, S50-150, S50-230, S50-240, H40-150, H40-220, H40-250
- Committee of the Whole report, S50-140, H40-140
- committee reports, H40-100
- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- legislation, 40-70, 40-180, S50-50

Relations with other house, 20-10

Reports of committees, S30-70, S40-60, S50-120, H30-50, H40-80, See also Committees, generally

- adoption, S50-120, H40-100, H40-140
 - of committee amendments, H30-50
- adverse committee reports, 10-150, S30-70, S50-120, H30-50, H40-100, H40-140
 - overturn, motion to, H50-160
 - reject, motion to, H40-100
- authentication, S30-50
- "be concurred in", H40-80, H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- "be not concurred in", H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- chairman of committee, duties, H30-20
- Committee of the Whole, 10-150, 40-150, S50-140, H40-140, H60-110
 - resolutions, house—final passage, determination, H40-20
- conference committees, 30-30, S50-120, S50-130, H40-230
 - enrolling, clerical instructions, 30-40
- consent calendar, for placement on, H30-50, H40-110
- debate, S50-120
- "do not pass", H40-100, H40-140, H60-110
- "do pass", H40-80, H40-100, H40-110, H40-140, H60-110
- "do pass as amended", H40-110, H60-110
- fiscal note requirements, 40-100, S30-70, H30-50
- journal entry, S10-170, H10-140
- order of business, S50-20, S50-120, S70-30, H40-100, H50-60
- recommendation required, S30-70, H30-50
- reconsideration, S30-140, S50-120
 - prior to report, S30-140
- rejection, H40-100, H40-140
- rules, committees on, 60-10, S50-120, H70-10, H70-50
- second reading consideration, time between, H40-140
- select committees, order of business, S50-20, H50-60
- sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, 40-40, S40-30

Reports of committees (continued)

- standing committees, S50-120, H40-100
 - consent calendar, motion to place on, H40-110
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
 - order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H40-100, H50-60
 - sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, S40-30
- substitute bills, 40-120

Request for preparation of materials, S20-70, H20-70**Resolutions**

- clerical errors, correction, 10-120
- drafting requests, 40-40, 40-50, H40-20
- engrossing and enrolling, 10-120
- enrolled, signing, S10-50, H10-20
- governor
 - approval not required, 40-60
 - nominations for appointments, 40-50, S40-10, S70-30
 - signature not required, 40-210
- interim studies, 40-50, 40-60
- introduction, 40-50, S40-10, S40-20, H40-20
- joint resolutions, 40-60, S40-10
 - administrative rules—for adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-50, 40-60
 - consent calendar, placement on, H40-110
 - effective date, 40-30
 - final passage, vote requirement, 10-150
 - interim studies, 40-50, 40-60
 - introduction, 40-50, S40-10
 - joint rules, removal, 60-40
 - joint sponsors, 40-40
 - revenue estimation, for, 30-60
 - third reading, H40-200
- numbering, 40-40, S40-20
- referral to committee, S30-60, H40-20
- rules
 - amendment, 60-10
 - house rules, H70-10, H70-20
- secretary of state, transmittal or delivery to, 40-60, H10-100
- simple resolutions, S40-10, H40-20, H40-110, H70-10, H70-20
- transmittal deadline, 40-200, H40-20
- uses, enumeration, 40-60, S40-10, H40-20

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee, 30-60, 30-70**Revenue, bill reducing—reduction in appropriation in general appropriations act required, 40-180**

Revenue bills, 40-200

- committee revenue bills, 40-50
- consent calendar, exception, H40-110
- definition, 40-200
- drafting request deadline, 40-50
- fiscal notes, 40-100
- transmittal deadlines, 40-200

Revenue estimation, resolutions for, 30-60**Rights**

- dilatory motions or questions, protection from, H20-50
- divide a question, H50-140
- questions of order and privilege, H20-20
- questions of privilege, S20-30
- question, to understand, H50-90, H60-10

Roll call, S50-20, H50-20, H50-60**Rooms**

- assignment by president of the senate, S10-50
- committee, S30-50, S30-80, H30-60
- sergeant-at-arms, duties, H10-110
- signs or placards not permitted, H10-20

Rulemaking authority, See Administrative rules**Rules, 60-10—60-30, S60-10, S60-20, H70-10—H70-60**

- adherence to, question of, H40-50
- adoption, 40-60, S40-10, S60-10, H40-20, H70-10, H70-20
- amendment, 40-60, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10
- appeals concerning interpretation, H50-160, H70-50
- codification, publication, and distribution, 60-30
- house deliberations, interpretation and enforcement, H10-20
- house rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 60-10, H40-20, H50-160, H70-10, H70-20
 - committee procedure, questions on, H30-50
 - interpretation, H70-50
 - joint rules, to supersede when, H70-60
 - supplementary, H70-40
 - suspension, H70-30
 - tenure, H70-20
 - violation, H20-80
- joint rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 40-60, 60-10, S40-10
 - superseded by house rules when, H70-60
 - suspension, 60-10
 - tenure, 60-40

Rules (continued)

- mason's manual of legislative procedure (2000), use, 60-20, S60-20, H70-40
- senate rules
 - adoption, amendment, or repeal, 60-10, S40-10, S60-10, S-Appendix A
 - committee procedure, applicability, S30-70
 - suspension, temporary, S60-10
 - violation, S20-20
- suspension, 60-10, S60-10, H70-30
 - motion to suspend, S50-60, S-Appendix A, H50-90, H50-160, H60-20, H70-30
- transmittal to other house, 60-10

Rules, Committees on, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)

- appeals to or from decisions by, H50-160, H70-50
- ethics committee, referral of issues to, S30-160
- harassment violations reported to, 10-85
- house rules
 - resolutions for, referral and reporting, H70-10
 - violation of, member called to order—referral to, H20-80
- legislative aides, approval when, S10-160, H10-120
- minutes, 60-10
- reports, 60-10, S50-120, H70-10
 - allowed in Committee of the Whole, S50-120
- same purpose, bills with—introduction or reception following rejection, approval, 40-70
- senate rules
 - motion to amend or adopt, referral to, S60-10
 - violation of, member called to order—referral to, S20-20
- speaker of the house, duties, H10-20
- voting in, 30-20

S

Salaries, See Compensation

Salmon-colored bills, 40-150

School districts, bills having fiscal impact—fiscal note requirements, 40-100

Second house, See Other house

Second reading of bills, See also Committee of the Whole

- adverse committee report rejected, following, H40-100
- agenda
 - add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130

Second reading of bills (continued)

agenda (continued)

arrangement or rearrangement of, S40-60, H10-20,
H30-130

amendments by second house, consideration, 40-150,
S50-230, H40-220

amendments in Committee of the Whole, 40-150,
S50-140, S50-150, H40-140, H40-150

preparation of, S50-150, H40-150

committee recommendation, bills without—debate,
S30-70, H30-50

committee reports, See **Reports of committees**

conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230

consent calendar legislation, H40-110

consideration of business on, S50-140, H40-140

debate, S50-140, H40-140

engrossing following, H40-190

fiscal note requests, 40-100

governor's recommendations for amendments,
consideration, S50-240, H40-250

house amendments to senate legislation, S50-230

joint select or joint special committees, bills requested
and heard by, 40-140

motions allowable, enumeration, S50-160, H40-160,
H60-110

order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H50-60

placement on, 40-140, S40-60, H40-140, H40-220

printing of legislation, 40-140, S40-60

progression through house, H40-80

quorum, failure to have, H40-160

rejection of Committee of the Whole report, effect,
S50-140, H40-140

scheduling for, S40-60, H40-100

segregated legislation, S50-140, H40-140

senate amendments to house legislation, H40-220

timing of bills placed on, S40-60, H40-140

vote on, S50-180, S50-230, H40-140

Secretaries, S10-130, H10-90**Secretary of State**

bills and bill records, delivery to, H10-100

enrolled bills, originals filed with, 40-160

journal, delivery to, H10-100

referendums, bills proposing—transmittal to, 40-160

resolutions and resolution records, delivery or
transmittal to, 40-60, H10-100, H40-20

Secretary of the Senate, S10-130, S10-140

amendments, responsibilities, S50-150

clerical corrections, notification and objection, 10-120

Secretary of the Senate (continued)

committees

minutes, responsibilities, S30-50

reports, responsibilities, S30-50, S30-140, S50-130

secretaries responsible to, S10-130

conference committee reports, filing, S50-130

governor's nominations for appointments

committee reports, delivery and reading, S70-30

delivery to and distribution, S70-20

harassment violations reported to, 10-85

introduction or reception of legislation, 40-40, S10-50, S40-20

public posting of introduced legislation, S40-20

journal, responsibilities, S10-170

legislative aides registered with, S10-160

motions read aloud when, S50-40

pairing of votes, agreements filed with, S50-210

preintroduction of legislation, S40-20

resolutions, transmittal to, 40-60

rules, amendments to—responsibility, 60-10

rules, committee on—minutes and reports,

responsibility, 60-10

signature by president of the senate, attestation, S10-50

sponsors, bill—forms for adding, S40-30

third reading procedure, S50-190

transmittal of legislation, responsibility, 40-60, 40-190, S10-140

vote, standing—recording, S50-180

Select committees, See also Committees, generally

absentee or proxy votes, S30-100, H30-50

appointments to or removal from, S30-10, H30-10

chairman, duties of, H30-10, H30-20, H30-50

conference committee reports, order of business, S50-130, H40-230

joint committees, referral of bills to, H40-70

referral to, H40-70, H40-80, H(Appendix)

question put when, H60-70

referred legislation, consent to take up, S30-70, H30-50

reports, order of business, S50-20, H50-60

request or receipt of legislation, 40-40, 40-130, 40-140, H30-10

rereferral of legislation to committee, H(Appendix)

rules, subject to, H30-10

secretaries, H10-90

senate bills in house, scheduling of, H30-50

subcommittees, appointment to, H30-20

testimony, S30-80, H30-60

Sergeant-at-Arms, S10-150, H10-110

- aisles, order to clear, H10-20
- appointment of, H10-90
- arrests by, S50-220
- legislative aides, notice of sponsorship and identification, S10-160, H10-120
- papers, distribution, H20-70

Service of processes and writs, H10-110**Sessions, See also Meetings**

- adjourn sine die, motion to, H50-250, H60-40
- committee meeting
 - holding during house session, H30-40
 - holding during senate session, S30-60
- future, interim preparation, S10-80
- legislative day, See **Legislative day**
- lobbying, S10-150, H20-20, H20-60
- order of business, See **Order of business**
- questions, asking, H50-100
- special, absence of president of the senate—effect, S10-60

Seven bill limit and exceptions, 40-40**Speaker-elect of the House, responsibilities and authority, H10-30****Speaker of the House, H10-10, H10-20, See also****Presiding officers**

- absence, H10-20, H10-40
- adverse committee reports, rejection—scheduling for second reading, H40-100
- agendas, responsibilities, H10-20, H40-100
- appeal of ruling of, H50-140, H50-160, H70-50
- assistance to, by majority leader, H10-50
- call of member to order, H20-80
- chaplain, appointment of, H10-90
- chief clerk of the house, appointment and supervision, H10-90, H10-100
- committees, responsibilities, H30-10—H30-40
 - appointment of committee chair, vice-chair, and members, H30-10
- conference committees, dissolving, H40-230
- consent calendar, agreement for placement on, H40-110
- debate, responsibilities, H50-150
- drafting requests, prioritization, 40-40
- employees, responsibilities, H10-20, H10-90, H20-60
- engrossing, responsibility, H40-190
- enrolling, responsibilities, H10-20, H40-240
- floor admittance, exceptions allowed by, H20-40
- journal, responsibilities, 10-170, H10-20, H10-140

Speaker of the House (continued)

- leave with cause, approval, H50-50
- legislative aides or interns, privileges withdrawn when, H20-60
- order and privilege, questions of—to decide, H20-20
- papers, distribution—permission for, H20-70
- recess, order for, H50-230
- recognition of members to speak, H20-10
- referral of legislation to committee, 40-190, H40-70, H(Appendix)
- rules, responsibilities, H10-20, H70-10, H70-50
- secretary, private, H10-90
- senate amendments to house legislation, placement on second reading, H40-220
- sergeant-at-arms and assistants, appointment and direction, H10-90, H10-110
- third reading, state the question on legislation on, H40-200

Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, H10-10, H10-20, H10-40**Speaking limitations, See also Debate**

- appeal on question of order, S20-10
- appropriations, general appropriations bill—debate, H40-180
- close debate, to, H40-170, H50-80
- motions, debatable, H50-80
- predetermined amount of time and number of speakers for debate, H40-170

Speaking, violation of rules, S20-20, H20-80**Speak more than once, H40-170, H50-80**

- appeal, on, S20-10
- debatable motion, on—motion to, H50-160

Speak more than twice, S50-30**Speak, recognition of member to, S20-40, H20-10****Special sessions, absence of president of the senate—effect, S10-60****Sponsors, bill**

- additional, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
- agency bills, 40-40
- chief sponsor, S40-10
 - additional sponsors, adding, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
 - enrolled legislation, responsibilities, H40-240
 - fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
 - fiscal note requirements, 40-100
 - introduction of legislation, duties, H40-40
 - joint—change prohibited, 40-40
- clerical corrections—notification and objection, 10-120

Sponsors, bill (continued)

- committee bills, 40-40
- committee, consideration of bill—notification, S30-70, H30-50
- Committee of the Whole amendments, H40-150
- committees as, S30-150
- consent for committee to take up referred legislation, S30-70, H30-50
- cosponsors, 40-40, S30-70, S40-30, H30-50, H40-30
- enrolled legislation, responsibilities, 40-160
- fiscal note rebuttal, 40-110
- forms, 40-40, S40-30, H40-30
- joint sponsors, 40-40, H40-30
- preintroduced legislation, 40-40

Stand at ease, House, H50-230**Standing committees, S30-20, H30-10, See also****Committees, generally**

- absentee or proxy votes, S30-100, H30-50
- amendments by second house, 40-150
- appointments to, S30-10, H30-10
- chair/chairman, S10-130, S30-20, H30-10, H30-20, H30-50
- consent calendar, eligibility and placement
 - on—procedure, H40-110
- drafting requests, 40-40, S30-150
- interim committees, appointment, 30-70
- introduction of legislation, 3/4 vote required, S30-150
- joint committee, bill heard in—referral to, S30-60
- minutes, S10-130, H30-20
- pairing of votes prohibited in, S30-100
- referral to, H40-80, H(Appendix)
 - question put first, H60-70
- referred legislation, consent to take up, S30-70, H30-50
- reports, S50-120, H30-20, H40-100
 - consent calendar, motion to place on, H40-110
 - governor's nominations for appointments, S70-30
 - order of business, S50-20, S50-120, H40-100, H50-60
 - sponsors, bill—additional added prior to, S40-30
- scheduling of, S30-20, H30-10
 - senate bills in house, H30-50
- secretaries, S10-130, H10-90
- subcommittees, appointment to, H30-20
- testimony, S30-80, H30-60
- tie vote in, H30-50

State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee, 30-70

- State Administration, Committees on**, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)
- State debt**, creation—motion to approve bill to authorize, H50-160
- Statutes**
- amendment, 10-130, 40-80
 - enrolled bills, 40-160
 - effective dates, 40-30
 - enactment, 40-90, 40-210
 - committee referral or rereferral required, S30-60
 - vote requirement, 10-140
 - extension of provisions, 40-80
 - material copied incorrectly from, correction, 10-120
 - repeal, 10-130
 - reproduction of full statute, 40-80
- Subcommittees**, S30-60, H30-40, See also **Committees**, generally
- appointment to, S30-50, H30-20
 - appropriations, house committee on — of, H30-10, H40-180
 - Committee of the Whole, appointment by—prohibited, S50-170
 - joint, general appropriation bills, 30-50
 - minutes and exhibits, H10-100
- Subject matter of bill**
- similar bills, prohibited when, 40-70
 - substitute bills, 40-120
- Subpoenas**, S10-50, H10-20
- Substitute bills**, 40-120
- Supplies**, S10-80, S10-150

T

- Tan-colored bills**, 40-150
- Taxation, Committees on**, 30-70, S30-20, H30-10, H(Appendix)
- Tax bills**, See **Revenue bills**
- Telephone use**, 10-70
- Third reading of bills**
- agenda
 - add legislation, motion to, H40-130, H50-160
 - amendment or addition to, H10-20, H40-130
 - arrangement, H10-20
 - amendments
 - prohibited, S40-40, H40-200
 - second house, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-220

Third reading of bills (continued)

- calendar, placement on, 40-150, H40-190
- conference committee reports, S50-130, H40-230
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- debate prohibited, H40-200
- engrossed legislation, placement on, 40-150, S50-190, H40-190
- failure to pass, H40-200
- governor's recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250
- majority vote, questions or legislation requiring prior to third reading, S50-110, H40-120
- order of business, S50-20, S50-190, H40-110, H50-60
- placement on, S40-60, S50-190, S50-230, H40-190, H40-200
- progression through house, H40-80
- question, statement of, S50-190, H40-200
- reconsider, motion to, S50-90
- resolutions, house—not required, H40-20
- second house, 40-180
 - amendments, 40-150, 40-170, S50-110, S50-230, H40-200, H40-220
- vote requirements, 10-140, 10-150, 40-170, S50-190, H40-200
- votes
 - absentee, not allowed, H50-220
 - recording, 10-150, H10-140

Three readings of legislation required, 40-130, S40-40**Time, See also Deadlines**

- adjournment, duration, 10-40
- committee
 - hearings, notice, S30-60
 - meetings and notice of, S30-60, H30-40
 - membership, notice of change, S30-10
- Committee of the Whole
 - debate, H40-170
 - second reading consideration, allowed after adoption of committee report and before, S40-60, H40-140
- consent calendar legislation, posting, H40-110
- debate
 - close debate, to, H40-170, H50-80
 - Committee of the Whole, H40-170
 - general appropriations bill, on, H40-180
 - question debatable on which there has been no debate, debate when previous question ordered for, S50-80

Time (continued)

- effective dates—appropriations, joint resolutions, and statutes, 40-30
- enrolled bills—signing, journal entry, or certification, 40-160, H40-240
- floor admittance, S20-50
- governor's nominations for appointments, request for separate consideration of nominee(s) and issuance of committee reports, S70-30
- legislative day ends when, 10-20, H10-160
- lobbying limitations, S20-50, H20-20
- meeting of each house, 10-10
- motions, debatable—debate on, H50-80
- president of the senate, absence after 85th day—effect, S10-60
- question of privilege
 - time for addressing house, H20-20
 - time for addressing senate, S20-30
- recess, duration, 10-40
- reconsider, motion to
 - immediate disposal when—exception, S50-90
 - reports of committees, following adoption, S50-120
- rules
 - notice for adoption or amendment of senate rules, S60-10
 - resolutions for house rules, report on, H70-10
- second reading consideration, allowed after adoption of committee report and before, S40-60, H40-140

Title of legislation

- errors caused by amendment, correction, 10-120
- introduced legislation, public posting by, S40-20
- journal index, entry, H10-140
- Montana code annotated sections amended or repealed, stated in, 10-130
- reading by, 40-130, S40-40, S50-140, S50-190
- substitute bills, 40-120

Tobacco settlement trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160**Transmittal of legislation, 40-190, 40-200**

- between houses, 40-140, 40-190
- consent calendar legislation, H40-110
- deadlines, 40-200
 - committee hearing notice requirements, applicability, S30-60
- enrolled bills, 40-160
- receipt for, from other house, 40-190
 - acknowledgment commences time limit for consideration, S40-20, H40-50

Transmittal of legislation (continued)

receipt for, from other house (continued)

acknowledgment constitutes introduction, S40-20,
H40-40

resolutions, H40-20

revenue bills, 40-200

rules, new rules, or rule amendments, 60-10

second house, by, 40-180

secretary of state, to, 40-60

secretary of the senate, by, S10-140

senate legislation to house, treatment by house, H40-40,
H40-50, H40-70, H40-210

Transportation, Committee on, H30-10, H(Appendix)

Twelve orders of business, S50-20, H50-60

U

Unfinished business, S50-20, H50-60

V

Veto by governor, See Governor

Visitors, S20-50, S30-80, H20-40, H30-60, H60-110

Votes and voting

absentee, H50-220

not allowed, when, H50-50, H50-70, H50-220

adverse committee reports, on, 10-150

amendments to legislation, 40-170, S50-150, S50-230,
H40-220

appeal of ruling of presiding officer, S-Appendix A,
H50-160

by electronic means, H50-200

call of the house, H50-30, H50-40, H50-160

call of the senate, S50-220, S-Appendix A

change a vote

motion to, S50-60, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160,
H50-210, H60-110

roll call vote, not allowed after decision announced,
S50-200

third reading, S50-190

clerical correction, on objection, 10-120

Committee of the Whole

pairing prohibited in, S50-210

public record, 10-150, H10-150

committees, S30-70, H30-50

absentee or proxy, authorization, S30-100, H30-50

bill introduction, 3/4 vote, S30-150, H30-50

Votes and voting (continued)

committees (continued)

- drafting requests, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50

- joint committees, in, 30-20, 30-50

- members, privileges, S30-70, H30-50

- minutes, entry, S30-60, H30-40

- pairing prohibited in standing, S30-100

- public record, 10-150

conference committees, in, 30-20

- reports not allowed when vote being taken, S50-120

- reports on legislation requiring more than majority vote, S50-130, H40-230

consent calendar, for eligibility and placement on, H30-50, H40-110

consent calendar legislation, on, H40-110

constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110

- motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160

counting of, S10-100, S10-120, H10-60, H10-80

electronic means, by, H50-200

electronic voting system, S50-190, S50-200, H50-200, H50-210

excused from, S50-180, S50-210

final passage, on, 10-140, 10-150, S50-110, S50-130, H40-120, H40-220, H40-230

- recording of votes, H10-140

governor

- recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250

- veto by, to override, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160

joint committees, 30-20, 30-50

journal entry, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S50-150,

- S50-200, H10-140, H40-110, H50-200, H50-210

- spread a vote on the journal, motion to, H50-160

majority

- agenda for second or third reading, amendment, H40-130

- amendments to bills requiring more than, 40-170

- appeal of call of member to order, H20-80

- arrest of members, S50-220

- bills becoming laws, required, 10-140

- call of the house, H50-30

- call of the senate, S50-220

committees

- absentee or proxy voting, authorization, S30-100, H30-50

Votes and voting (continued)

majority (continued)

committees (continued)

- bill introduction, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50
 - drafting requests, 3/4 vote of committee, S30-150, H30-50
 - finance and claims, committee on—drafting request, S30-150
 - motions, adoption, S30-70, H30-50
 - take from the table, to, S30-70, H30-50
 - conference committee reports on legislation requiring more than majority vote, S50-130, H40-230
 - constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110
 - general appropriations bill, to reopen a section, H40-180
 - governor's recommendations for amendments, S50-240, H40-250
 - legislation requiring other than, S50-130, S50-240, H40-120, H40-230, H40-250
 - motions, to decide, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70
 - order of business, new—revert or pass to, S50-20
 - previous question, adoption of motion for, H50-150
 - questions requiring other than, S50-110, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - question, to indefinitely postpone, S50-50
 - recess, H50-230
 - required when, 10-140, H40-120
 - rereferral to committee, S50-190, H40-80
 - overturning, H(Appendix)
 - rules
 - adoption of house rules, H70-10
 - adoption or amendment of senate rules, S60-10
 - third reading, failure to approve—effect, H40-200
- motions
- adjourn or recess, to—effect of vote, H60-40
 - change a vote, to, S50-200, H50-90, H50-160, H50-210, H60-110
 - Committee of the Whole, made in—public record, 10-150
 - decide motions, vote to, S30-70, H30-50, H50-70, H50-200
 - majority vote, questions requiring other than, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - procedural, voice vote, H50-200
 - relating to voting, nondebatable, S50-60, H50-90, H60-20

Votes and voting (continued)

motions (continued)

table, to—effect of vote, H60-50

withdrawal of motion prior to vote, S50-40, H50-130

1/3 vote, call of the house with a quorum, H50-40,
H50-160

pairing of, S30-100, S50-210

present and, H50-160

absentee not allowed during, H50-220

presiding officer, voting by, S10-40

appeal of ruling by, S-Appendix A, H50-160

previous question

call for, effect, S50-80

motion for, H50-150

proxy votes, S30-70, S30-100, H30-50

public record, 10-150, H10-150

questions, to decide, S50-180, H50-200

reconsideration of vote, H50-170, H60-40, H60-50

reconsideration vote on specific issue, one per day,
H50-170

record a vote, motion to, H50-160

recording, 10-140, 10-150, S10-170, S30-70, S50-150,
S50-180—S50-200, H10-140, H10-150, H30-50,
H50-200, H50-210

required of members, S50-10, H50-200

roll call vote

adverse committee reports, 10-150

change or explanation of vote, S50-200

Committee of the Whole, motions made in, 10-150

consent calendar legislation, H40-110

journal entry, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110

minutes, entry in, 10-150

question, to indefinitely postpone, S50-50

recording, 10-150, S10-170, H10-140, H40-110

request for, 10-150, S50-200

veto by governor, motion to override, 40-220

rules, appeal of presiding officer's

interpretation—motion to, S50-170

rules, committees on—in, 30-20

reports not allowed when vote being taken, S50-120

second reading, S50-180, S50-230, H40-140

spread a vote on the journal, motion to, H50-160

standing vote, S50-180

third reading, 10-140, 10-150, 40-170, S50-190, H40-200

absentee votes not allowed, H50-220

recording of votes, 10-150, H10-140

3/5 vote

adverse committee reports, motion to
overturn, H50-160

Votes and voting (continued)**3/5 vote (continued)**

- adverse committee reports, motion to (continued)
 - reject, H40-100
- agenda for second or third reading, motion to add legislation, H40-130, H50-160
- highway revenue, to approve bill to appropriate for purposes other than therein described,
 - S-Appendix A, H50-160
- remove legislation from normal progress through house and reassign, H50-160
- rerefer, motion to, H40-80, H50-160
- rereferral to committee, overturning, H(Appendix)
- withdraw a bill from committee, motion to, H40-90, H50-160

3/4 vote

- coal severance tax trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- committees, drafting requests or introduction of legislation, S30-150, H30-50
- noxious weed management trust fund, motion to appropriate principal of, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- standing committees, to draft or introduce legislation, S30-150

tie vote, H30-50**2/3 vote**

- call of the house
 - lifted by vote, H50-30, H50-40
 - lift, motion to, H50-160
- call of the senate
 - lift, motion to, S-Appendix A
 - remove, motion to, S50-220
- cloture, motion to call for, H40-170, H50-160
- constitutional amendments, Montana, 10-140, S50-110
 - motion to approve bill proposing, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- immunity from suit—motion to approve bill conferring, S-Appendix A, H50-160
- leave with cause, approval during call of the house, H50-50
- pairing of votes, S50-210
- reconsider, motion to—to take from the table, S50-90
- rules
 - amendment of house rules, H70-10
 - motion to amend or suspend, S-Appendix A, H50-160
 - suspension, 60-10, S60-10, H70-30

Votes and voting (continued)

2/3 vote (continued)

state debt, creation—motion to approve bill to authorize, H50-160

tobacco settlement trust fund, motion to approve bill to appropriate principal, S-Appendix A, H50-160

transmittal of bills or amendments after deadline, for consideration by receiving house, 40-200

veto by governor

motion to override, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160

to override, 40-210

unanimous vote

consent calendar, for eligibility and placement on, H30-50, H40-110

speak more than once on debatable motion, H50-80
motion to, H50-160

speak more than twice, to, S50-30

voice vote, S50-180

vote, change—motion to, H50-160

veto by governor, to override, 40-210, 40-220, S50-250, S-Appendix A, H40-260, H50-160

voice vote, S50-180, H50-200

W

Whips, S10-100, S10-120, H10-10, H10-60, H10-80, H50-220

White paper, introduced bills, 10-130

Writs and processes, service, H10-110

Y

Yellow-colored bills, 40-140

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA**

PREAMBLE

We the people of Montana grateful to God for the quiet beauty of our state, the grandeur of our mountains, the vastness of our rolling plains, and desiring to improve the quality of life, equality of opportunity and to secure the blessings of liberty for this and future generations do ordain and establish this constitution.

ARTICLE I

COMPACT WITH THE UNITED STATES

All provisions of the enabling act of Congress (approved February 22, 1889, 25 Stat. 676), as amended and of Ordinance No. 1, appended to the Constitution of the state of Montana and approved February 22, 1889, including the agreement and declaration that all lands owned or held by any Indian or Indian tribes shall remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the congress of the United States, continue in full force and effect until revoked by the consent of the United States and the people of Montana.

ARTICLE II

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

Section 1. Popular sovereignty. All political power is vested in and derived from the people. All government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole.

Section 2. Self-government. The people have the exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state. They may alter or abolish the constitution and form of government whenever they deem it necessary.

Section 3. Inalienable rights. All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities, enjoying and defending their lives and liberties, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and seeking their safety, health and happiness in all lawful ways. In enjoying these rights, all persons recognize corresponding responsibilities.

Section 4. Individual dignity. The dignity of the human being is inviolable. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws. Neither the state nor any person, firm, corporation, or institution shall discriminate against any person in the exercise of his civil or political rights on account

of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas.

Section 5. Freedom of religion. The state shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

Section 6. Freedom of assembly. The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, petition for redress or peaceably protest governmental action.

Section 7. Freedom of speech, expression, and press. No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech or expression. Every person shall be free to speak or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty. In all suits and prosecutions for libel or slander the truth thereof may be given in evidence; and the jury, under the direction of the court, shall determine the law and the facts.

Section 8. Right of participation. The public has the right to expect governmental agencies to afford such reasonable opportunity for citizen participation in the operation of the agencies prior to the final decision as may be provided by law.

Section 9. Right to know. No person shall be deprived of the right to examine documents or to observe the deliberations of all public bodies or agencies of state government and its subdivisions, except in cases in which the demand of individual privacy clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure.

Section 10. Right of privacy. The right of individual privacy is essential to the well-being of a free society and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest.

Section 11. Searches and seizures. The people shall be secure in their persons, papers, homes and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures. No warrant to search any place, or seize any person or thing shall issue without describing the place to be searched or the person or thing to be seized, or without probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation reduced to writing.

Section 12. Right to bear arms. The right of any person to keep or bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.

Section 13. Right of suffrage. All elections shall be free and open, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

Section 14. Adult rights. A person 18 years of age or older is an adult for all purposes, except that the legislature or the people by initiative may establish the legal age for purchasing, consuming, or possessing alcoholic beverages.

Section 15. Rights of persons not adults. The rights of persons under 18 years of age shall include, but not be limited to, all the fundamental rights of this Article unless specifically precluded by laws which enhance the protection of such persons.

Section 16. The administration of justice. Courts of justice shall be open to every person, and speedy remedy afforded for every injury of person, property, or character. No person shall be deprived of this full legal redress for injury incurred in employment for which another person may be liable except as to fellow employees and his immediate employer who hired him if such immediate employer provides coverage under the Workmen's Compensation Laws of this state. Right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial, or delay.

Section 17. Due process of law. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Section 18. State subject to suit. The state, counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities shall have no immunity from suit for injury to a person or property, except as may be specifically provided by law by a 2/3 vote of each house of the legislature.

Section 19. Habeas corpus. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall never be suspended.

Section 20. Initiation of proceedings. (1) Criminal offenses within the jurisdiction of any court inferior to the district court shall be prosecuted by complaint. All criminal actions in district court, except those on appeal, shall be prosecuted either by information, after examination and commitment by a magistrate or after leave granted by the court, or by indictment without such examination, commitment or leave.

(2) A grand jury shall consist of eleven persons, of whom eight must concur to find an indictment. A grand jury shall be drawn and summoned only at the discretion and order of the district judge.

Section 21. Bail. All persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses, when the proof is evident or the presumption great.

Section 22. Excessive sanctions. Excessive bail shall not be required, or excessive fines imposed, or cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 23. Detention. No person shall be imprisoned for the purpose of securing his testimony in any criminal proceeding longer than may be necessary in order to take his deposition. If he can give security for his appearance at the time of trial, he shall be discharged upon giving the same; if he cannot give security, his deposition shall be taken in the manner provided by law, and in the presence of the accused and his counsel, or without their presence, if they shall fail to attend the examination after reasonable notice of the time and place thereof.

Section 24. Rights of the accused. In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel; to demand the nature and cause of the accusation; to meet the witnesses against him face to face; to have process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his behalf, and a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county or district in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, subject to the right of the state to have a change of venue for any of the causes for which the defendant may obtain the same.

Section 25. Self-incrimination and double jeopardy. No person shall be compelled to testify against himself in a criminal proceeding. No person shall be again put in jeopardy for the same offense previously tried in any jurisdiction.

Section 26. Trial by jury. The right of trial by jury is secured to all and shall remain inviolate. But upon default of appearance or by consent of the parties expressed in such manner as the law may provide, all cases may be tried without a jury or before fewer than the number of jurors provided by law. In all civil actions, two-thirds of the jury may render a verdict, and a verdict so rendered shall have the same force and effect as if all had concurred therein. In all criminal actions, the verdict shall be unanimous.

Section 27. Imprisonment for debt. No person shall be imprisoned for debt except in the manner provided by law, upon refusal to deliver up his estate for the benefit of his creditors, or in cases of tort, where there is strong presumption of fraud.

Section 28. Criminal justice policy — rights of the convicted. (1) Laws for the punishment of crime shall be founded on the principles of prevention, reformation, public safety, and restitution for victims.

(2) Full rights are restored by termination of state supervision for any offense against the state.

Section 29. Eminent domain. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation to the full extent of the loss having been first made to or paid into court for the owner. In the event of litigation, just compensation shall include necessary expenses of litigation to be awarded by the court when the private property owner prevails.

Section 30. Treason and descent of estates. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, or in adhering to its enemies, giving them aid and comfort; no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on his confession in open court; no person shall be attainted of treason or felony by the legislature; no conviction shall cause the loss of property to the relatives or heirs of the convicted. The estates of suicides shall descend or vest as in cases of natural death.

Section 31. Ex post facto, obligation of contracts, and irrevocable privileges. No ex post facto law nor any law impairing the obligation of contracts, or making any irrevocable grant of special privileges, franchises, or immunities, shall be passed by the legislature.

Section 32. Civilian control of the military. The military shall always be in strict subordination to the civil power; no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, except in the manner provided by law.

Section 33. Importation of armed persons. No armed person or persons or armed body of men shall be brought into this state for the preservation of the peace, or the suppression of domestic violence, except upon the application of the legislature, or of the governor when the legislature cannot be convened.

Section 34. Unenumerated rights. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny, impair, or disparage others retained by the people.

Section 35. Servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans. The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Separation of powers. The power of the government of this state is divided into three distinct branches—legislative, executive, and judicial. No person or persons charged with the exercise of power properly belonging to one branch shall exercise any power properly belonging to either of the others, except as in this constitution expressly directed or permitted.

Section 2. Continuity of government. The seat of government shall be in Helena, except during periods of emergency resulting from disasters or enemy attack. The legislature may enact laws to insure the continuity of government during a period of emergency without regard for other provisions of the constitution. They shall be effective only during the period of emergency that affects a particular office or governmental operation.

Section 3. Oath of office. Members of the legislature and all executive, ministerial and judicial officers, shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, before they enter upon the duties of their offices: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the state of Montana, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity (so help me God)." No other oath, declaration, or test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust.

Section 4. Initiative. (1) The people may enact laws by initiative on all matters except appropriations of money and local or special laws.

(2) Initiative petitions must contain the full text of the proposed measure, shall be signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-half of the counties and the total number of signers must be at least five percent of the total qualified electors of the state. Petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state at least three months prior to the election at which the measure will be voted upon.

(3) The sufficiency of the initiative petition shall not be questioned after the election is held.

Section 5. Referendum. (1) The people may approve or reject by referendum any act of the legislature except an appropriation of money. A referendum shall be held either upon order by the legislature or upon petition signed by at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-third of the legislative representative districts. The total

number of signers must be at least five percent of the qualified electors of the state. A referendum petition shall be filed with the secretary of state no later than six months after adjournment of the legislature which passed the act.

(2) An act referred to the people is in effect until suspended by petitions signed by at least 15 percent of the qualified electors in a majority of the legislative representative districts. If so suspended the act shall become operative only after it is approved at an election, the result of which has been determined and declared as provided by law.

Section 6. Elections. The people shall vote on initiative and referendum measures at the general election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Section 7. Number of electors. (1) The number of qualified electors required in each legislative representative district and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(2) For the purposes of a constitutional amendment, the number of qualified electors in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

(3) For the purposes of a statutory initiative, the number of qualified electors required in each county and in the state shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 8. Prohibition. The provisions of this Article do not apply to CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION, Article XIV.

Section 9. Gambling. All forms of gambling, lotteries, and gift enterprises are prohibited unless authorized by acts of the legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum.

ARTICLE IV

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Ballot. All elections by the people shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. Qualified elector. Any citizen of the United States 18 years of age or older who meets the registration and residence requirements provided by law is a qualified elector unless he is serving a sentence for a felony in a penal institution or is of unsound mind, as determined by a court.

Section 3. Elections. The legislature shall provide by law the requirements for residence, registration, absentee voting,

and administration of elections. It may provide for a system of poll booth registration, and shall insure the purity of elections and guard against abuses of the electoral process.

Section 4. Eligibility for public office. Any qualified elector is eligible to any public office except as otherwise provided in this constitution. The legislature may provide additional qualifications but no person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to hold office until his final discharge from state supervision.

Section 5. Result of elections. In all elections held by the people, the person or persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 6. Privilege from arrest. A qualified elector is privileged from arrest at polling places and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace.

Section 7. Ballot issues — challenges — elections. (1) An initiative or referendum that qualifies for the ballot under Article III or Article XIV shall be submitted to the qualified electors as provided in the Article under which the initiative or referendum qualified unless a new election is held pursuant to this section.

(2) A preelection challenge to the procedure by which an initiative or referendum qualified for the ballot or a postelection challenge to the manner in which the election was conducted shall be given priority by the courts.

(3) If the election on an initiative or referendum properly qualifying for the ballot is declared invalid because the election was improperly conducted, the secretary of state shall submit the issue to the qualified electors at the next regularly scheduled statewide election unless the legislature orders a special election.

Section 8. Limitation on terms of office. (1) The secretary of state or other authorized official shall not certify a candidate's nomination or election to, or print or cause to be printed on any ballot the name of a candidate for, one of the following offices if, at the end of the current term of that office, the candidate will have served in that office or had he not resigned or been recalled would have served in that office:

(a) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state auditor, attorney general, or superintendent of public instruction;

(b) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state representative;

- (c) 8 or more years in any 16-year period as a state senator;
 - (d) 6 or more years in any 12-year period as a member of the U.S. house of representatives; and
 - (e) 12 or more years in any 24-year period as a member of the U.S. senate.
- (2) When computing time served for purposes of subsection (1), the provisions of subsection (1) do not apply to time served in terms that end during or prior to January 1993.
- (3) Nothing contained herein shall preclude an otherwise qualified candidate from being certified as nominated or elected by virtue of write-in votes cast for said candidate.

ARTICLE V

THE LEGISLATURE

Section 1. Power and structure. The legislative power is vested in a legislature consisting of a senate and a house of representatives. The people reserve to themselves the powers of initiative and referendum.

Section 2. Size. The size of the legislature shall be provided by law, but the senate shall not have more than 50 or fewer than 40 members and the house shall not have more than 100 or fewer than 80 members.

Section 3. Election and terms. A member of the house of representatives shall be elected for a term of two years and a member of the senate for a term of four years each to begin on a date provided by law. One-half of the senators shall be elected every two years.

Section 4. Qualifications. A candidate for the legislature shall be a resident of the state for at least one year next preceding the general election. For six months next preceding the general election, he shall be a resident of the county if it contains one or more districts or of the district if it contains all or parts of more than one county.

Section 5. Compensation. Each member of the legislature shall receive compensation for his services and allowances provided by law. No legislature may fix its own compensation.

Section 6. Sessions. The legislature shall meet each odd-numbered year in regular session of not more than 90 legislative days. Any legislature may increase the limit on the length of any subsequent session. The legislature may be convened in special sessions by the governor or at the written request of a majority of the members.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election for the unexpired term unless otherwise provided by law.

Section 8. Immunity. A member of the legislature is privileged from arrest during attendance at sessions of the legislature and in going to and returning therefrom, unless apprehended in the commission of a felony or a breach of the peace. He shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech or debate in the legislature.

Section 9. Disqualification. No member of the legislature shall, during the term for which he shall have been elected, be appointed to any civil office under the state; and no member of congress, or other person holding an office (except notary public, or the militia) under the United States or this state, shall be a member of the legislature during his continuance in office.

Section 10. Organization and procedure. (1) Each house shall judge the election and qualifications of its members. It may by law vest in the courts the power to try and determine contested elections. Each house shall choose its officers from among its members, keep a journal, and make rules for its proceedings. Each house may expel or punish a member for good cause shown with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members.

(2) A majority of each house constitutes a quorum. A smaller number may adjourn from day to day and compel attendance of absent members.

(3) The sessions of the legislature and of the committee of the whole, all committee meetings, and all hearings shall be open to the public.

(4) The legislature may establish a legislative council and other interim committees. The legislature shall establish a legislative post-audit committee which shall supervise post-auditing duties provided by law.

(5) Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn or recess for more than three days or to any place other than that in which the two houses are sitting.

Section 11. Bills. (1) A law shall be passed by bill which shall not be so altered or amended on its passage through the legislature as to change its original purpose. No bill shall become law except by a vote of the majority of all members present and voting.

(2) Every vote of each member of the legislature on each substantive question in the legislature, in any committee, or in committee of the whole shall be recorded and made public.

On final passage, the vote shall be taken by ayes and noes and the names entered on the journal.

(3) Each bill, except general appropriation bills and bills for the codification and general revision of the laws, shall contain only one subject, clearly expressed in its title. If any subject is embraced in any act and is not expressed in the title, only so much of the act not so expressed is void.

(4) A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by a separate bill, containing but one subject.

(5) No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state.

(6) A law may be challenged on the ground of noncompliance with this section only within two years after its effective date.

Section 12. Local and special legislation. The legislature shall not pass a special or local act when a general act is, or can be made, applicable.

Section 13. Impeachment. (1) The governor, executive officers, heads of state departments, judicial officers, and such other officers as may be provided by law are subject to impeachment, and upon conviction shall be removed from office. Other proceedings for removal from public office for cause may be provided by law.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the manner, procedure, and causes for impeachment and may select the senate as tribunal.

(3) Impeachment shall be brought only by a two-thirds vote of the house. The tribunal hearing the charges shall convict only by a vote of two-thirds or more of its members.

(4) Conviction shall extend only to removal from office, but the party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall also be liable to prosecution according to law.

Section 14. Districting and apportionment. (1) The state shall be divided into as many districts as there are members of the house, and each district shall elect one representative. Each senate district shall be composed of two adjoining house districts, and shall elect one senator. Each district shall consist of compact and contiguous territory. All districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable.

(2) In the legislative session following ratification of this constitution and thereafter in each session preceding each federal population census, a commission of five citizens, none of whom may be public officials, shall be selected to prepare a plan for redistricting and reapportioning the state into legislative districts and a plan for redistricting the state into congressional districts. The majority and minority leaders of each house shall each designate one commissioner. Within 20 days after their designation, the four commissioners shall select the fifth member, who shall serve as chairman of the commission. If the four members fail to select the fifth member within the time prescribed, a majority of the supreme court shall select him.

(3) Within 90 days after the official final decennial census figures are available, the commission shall file its final plan for congressional districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(4) The commission shall submit its plan for legislative districts to the legislature at the first regular session after its appointment or after the census figures are available. Within 30 days after submission, the legislature shall return the plan to the commission with its recommendations. Within 30 days thereafter, the commission shall file its final plan for legislative districts with the secretary of state and it shall become law.

(5) Upon filing both plans, the commission is then dissolved.

ARTICLE VI THE EXECUTIVE

Section 1. Officers. (1) The executive branch includes a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor.

(2) Each holds office for a term of four years which begins on the first Monday of January next succeeding election, and until a successor is elected and qualified.

(3) Each shall reside at the seat of government, there keep the public records of his office, and perform such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

Section 2. Election. (1) The governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor shall be elected by the qualified electors at a general election provided by law.

(2) Each candidate for governor shall file jointly with a candidate for lieutenant governor in primary elections, or so

otherwise comply with nomination procedures provided by law that the offices of governor and lieutenant governor are voted upon together in primary and general elections.

Section 3. Qualifications. (1) No person shall be eligible to the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, or auditor unless he is 25 years of age or older at the time of his election. In addition, each shall be a citizen of the United States who has resided within the state two years next preceding his election.

(2) Any person with the foregoing qualifications is eligible to the office of attorney general if an attorney in good standing admitted to practice law in Montana who has engaged in the active practice thereof for at least five years before election.

(3) The superintendent of public instruction shall have such educational qualifications as are provided by law.

Section 4. Duties. (1) The executive power is vested in the governor who shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall have such other duties as are provided in this constitution and by law.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall perform the duties provided by law and those delegated to him by the governor. No power specifically vested in the governor by this constitution may be delegated to the lieutenant governor.

(3) The secretary of state shall maintain official records of the executive branch and of the acts of the legislature, as provided by law. He shall keep the great seal of the state of Montana and perform any other duties provided by law.

(4) The attorney general is the legal officer of the state and shall have the duties and powers provided by law.

(5) The superintendent of public instruction and the auditor shall have such duties as are provided by law.

Section 5. Compensation. (1) Officers of the executive branch shall receive salaries provided by law.

(2) During his term, no elected officer of the executive branch may hold another public office or receive compensation for services from any other governmental agency. He may be a candidate for any public office during his term.

Section 6. Vacancy in office. (1) If the office of lieutenant governor becomes vacant by his succession to the office of governor, or by his death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office for the remainder of the term. If

both the elected governor and the elected lieutenant governor become unable to serve in the office of governor, succession to the respective offices shall be as provided by law for the period until the next general election. Then, a governor and lieutenant governor shall be elected to fill the remainder of the original term.

(2) If the office of secretary of state, attorney general, auditor, or superintendent of public instruction becomes vacant by death, resignation, or disability as determined by law, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to serve in that office until the next general election and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected to fill a vacancy shall hold the office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Section 7. 20 departments. All executive and administrative offices, boards, bureaus, commissions, agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch (except for the office of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and auditor) and their respective functions, powers, and duties, shall be allocated by law among not more than 20 principal departments so as to provide an orderly arrangement in the administrative organization of state government. Temporary commissions may be established by law and need not be allocated within a department.

Section 8. Appointing power. (1) The departments provided for in section 7 shall be under the supervision of the governor. Except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by law, each department shall be headed by a single executive appointed by the governor subject to confirmation by the senate to hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(2) The governor shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the senate, all officers provided for in this constitution or by law whose appointment or election is not otherwise provided for. They shall hold office until the end of the governor's term unless sooner removed by the governor.

(3) If a vacancy occurs in any such office when the legislature is not in session, the governor shall appoint a qualified person to discharge the duties thereof until the office is filled by appointment and confirmation.

(4) A person not confirmed by the senate for an office shall not, except at its request, be nominated again for that office at the same session, or be appointed to that office when the legislature is not in session.

Section 9. Budget and messages. The governor shall at the beginning of each legislative session, and may at other times, give the legislature information and recommend measures he considers necessary. The governor shall submit to the legislature at a time fixed by law, a budget for the ensuing fiscal period setting forth in detail for all operating funds the proposed expenditures and estimated revenue of the state.

Section 10. Veto power. (1) Each bill passed by the legislature, except bills proposing amendments to the Montana constitution, bills ratifying proposed amendments to the United States constitution, resolutions, and initiative and referendum measures, shall be submitted to the governor for his signature. If he does not sign or veto the bill within 10 days after its delivery to him, it shall become law. The governor shall return a vetoed bill to the legislature with a statement of his reasons therefor.

(2) The governor may return any bill to the legislature with his recommendation for amendment. If the legislature passes the bill in accordance with the governor's recommendation, it shall again return the bill to the governor for his reconsideration. The governor shall not return a bill for amendment a second time.

(3) If after receipt of a veto message, two-thirds of the members of each house present approve the bill, it shall become law.

(4) (a) If the legislature is not in session when the governor vetoes a bill approved by two-thirds of the members present, he shall return the bill with his reasons therefor to the secretary of state. The secretary of state shall poll the members of the legislature by mail and shall send each member a copy of the governor's veto message. If two-thirds or more of the members of each house vote to override the veto, the bill shall become law.

(b) The legislature may reconvene as provided by law to reconsider any bill vetoed by the governor when the legislature is not in session.

(5) The governor may veto items in appropriation bills, and in such instances the procedure shall be the same as upon veto of an entire bill.

Section 11. Special session. Whenever the governor considers it in the public interest, he may convene the legislature.

Section 12. Pardons. The governor may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, restore citizenship, and suspend

and remit fines and forfeitures subject to procedures provided by law.

Section 13. Militia. (1) The governor is commander-in-chief of the militia forces of the state, except when they are in the actual service of the United States. He may call out any part or all of the forces to aid in the execution of the laws, suppress insurrection, repel invasion, or protect life and property in natural disasters.

(2) The militia forces shall consist of all able-bodied citizens of the state except those exempted by law.

Section 14. Succession. (1) If the governor-elect is disqualified or dies, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying for the office shall become governor for the full term. If the governor-elect fails to assume office for any other reason, the lieutenant governor-elect upon qualifying as such shall serve as acting governor until the governor-elect is able to assume office, or until the office becomes vacant.

(2) The lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor when so requested in writing by the governor. After the governor has been absent from the state for more than 45 consecutive days, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor.

(3) He shall serve as acting governor when the governor is so disabled as to be unable to communicate to the lieutenant governor the fact of his inability to perform the duties of his office. The lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor until the governor is able to resume the duties of his office.

(4) Whenever, at any other time, the lieutenant governor and attorney general transmit to the legislature their written declaration that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the legislature shall convene to determine whether he is able to do so.

(5) If the legislature, within 21 days after convening, determines by two-thirds vote of its members that the governor is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the lieutenant governor shall serve as acting governor. Thereafter, when the governor transmits to the legislature his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office within 15 days, unless the legislature determines otherwise by two-thirds vote of its members. If the legislature so determines, the lieutenant governor shall continue to serve as acting governor.

(6) If the office of governor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or disqualification, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, except as provided in this constitution.

(7) Additional succession to fill vacancies shall be provided by law.

(8) When there is a vacancy in the office of governor, the successor shall be the governor. The acting governor shall have the powers and duties of the office of governor only for the period during which he serves.

Section 15. Information for governor. (1) The governor may require information in writing, under oath when required, from the officers of the executive branch upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices.

(2) He may require information in writing, under oath, from all officers and managers of state institutions.

(3) He may appoint a committee to investigate and report to him upon the condition of any executive office or state institution.

ARTICLE VII THE JUDICIARY

Section 1. Judicial power. The judicial power of the state is vested in one supreme court, district courts, justice courts, and such other courts as may be provided by law.

Section 2. Supreme court jurisdiction. (1) The supreme court has appellate jurisdiction and may issue, hear, and determine writs appropriate thereto. It has original jurisdiction to issue, hear, and determine writs of habeas corpus and such other writs as may be provided by law.

(2) It has general supervisory control over all other courts.

(3) It may make rules governing appellate procedure, practice and procedure for all other courts, admission to the bar and the conduct of its members. Rules of procedure shall be subject to disapproval by the legislature in either of the two sessions following promulgation.

(4) Supreme court process shall extend to all parts of the state.

Section 3. Supreme court organization. (1) The supreme court consists of one chief justice and four justices, but the legislature may increase the number of justices from four to six. A majority shall join in and pronounce decisions, which must be in writing.

(2) A district judge shall be substituted for the chief justice or a justice in the event of disqualification or disability, and the opinion of the district judge sitting with the supreme court shall have the same effect as an opinion of a justice.

Section 4. District court jurisdiction. (1) The district court has original jurisdiction in all criminal cases amounting to felony and all civil matters and cases at law and in equity. It may issue all writs appropriate to its jurisdiction. It shall have the power of naturalization and such additional jurisdiction as may be delegated by the laws of the United States or the state of Montana. Its process shall extend to all parts of the state.

(2) The district court shall hear appeals from inferior courts as trials anew unless otherwise provided by law. The legislature may provide for direct review by the district court of decisions of administrative agencies.

(3) Other courts may have jurisdiction of criminal cases not amounting to felony and such jurisdiction concurrent with that of the district court as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Justices of the peace. (1) There shall be elected in each county at least one justice of the peace with qualifications, training, and monthly compensation provided by law. There shall be provided such facilities that they may perform their duties in dignified surroundings.

(2) Justice courts shall have such original jurisdiction as may be provided by law. They shall not have trial jurisdiction in any criminal case designated a felony except as examining courts.

(3) The legislature may provide for additional justices of the peace in each county.

Section 6. Judicial districts. (1) The legislature shall divide the state into judicial districts and provide for the number of judges in each district. Each district shall be formed of compact territory and be bounded by county lines.

(2) The legislature may change the number and boundaries of judicial districts and the number of judges in each district, but no change in boundaries or the number of districts or judges therein shall work a removal of any judge from office during the term for which he was elected or appointed.

(3) The chief justice may, upon request of the district judge, assign district judges and other judges for temporary service from one district to another, and from one county to another.

Section 7. Terms and pay. (1) All justices and judges shall be paid as provided by law, but salaries shall not be diminished during terms of office.

(2) Terms of office shall be eight years for supreme court justices, six years for district court judges, four years for justices of the peace, and as provided by law for other judges.

Section 8. Selection. (1) Supreme court justices and district court judges shall be elected by the qualified electors as provided by law.

(2) For any vacancy in the office of supreme court justice or district court judge, the governor shall appoint a replacement from nominees selected in the manner provided by law. If the governor fails to appoint within thirty days after receipt of nominees, the chief justice or acting chief justice shall make the appointment from the same nominees within thirty days of the governor's failure to appoint. Appointments made under this subsection shall be subject to confirmation by the senate, as provided by law. If the appointee is not confirmed, the office shall be vacant and a replacement shall be made under the procedures provided for in this section. The appointee shall serve until the election for the office as provided by law and until a successor is elected and qualified. The person elected or retained at the election shall serve until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected. No appointee, whether confirmed or unconfirmed, shall serve past the term of his predecessor without standing for election.

(3) If an incumbent files for election and there is no election contest for the office, the name of the incumbent shall nevertheless be placed on the general election ballot to allow the voters of the state or district to approve or reject him. If an incumbent is rejected, the vacancy in the office for which the election was held shall be filled as provided in subsection (2).

Section 9. Qualifications. (1) A citizen of the United States who has resided in the state two years immediately before taking office is eligible to the office of supreme court justice or district court judge if admitted to the practice of law in Montana for at least five years prior to the date of appointment or election. Qualifications and methods of selection of judges of other courts shall be provided by law.

(2) No supreme court justice or district court judge shall solicit or receive compensation in any form whatever on account of his office, except salary and actual necessary travel expense.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this constitution, no supreme court justice or district court judge shall practice law during his term of office, engage in any other employment for which salary or fee is paid, or hold office in a political party.

(4) Supreme court justices shall reside within the state. During his term of office, a district court judge shall reside in the district and a justice of the peace shall reside in the county in which he is elected or appointed. The residency requirement for every other judge must be provided by law.

Section 10. Forfeiture of judicial position. Any holder of a judicial position forfeits that position by either filing for an elective public office other than a judicial position or absenting himself from the state for more than 60 consecutive days.

Section 11. Removal and discipline. (1) The legislature shall create a judicial standards commission consisting of five persons and provide for the appointment thereto of two district judges, one attorney, and two citizens who are neither judges nor attorneys.

(2) The commission shall investigate complaints, and make rules implementing this section. It may subpoena witnesses and documents.

(3) Upon recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may:

(a) Retire any justice or judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of his duties and is or may become permanent; or

(b) Censure, suspend, or remove any justice or judge for willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, violation of canons of judicial ethics adopted by the supreme court of the state of Montana, or habitual intemperance.

(4) The proceedings of the commission are confidential except as provided by statute.

ARTICLE VIII

REVENUE AND FINANCE

Section 1. Tax purposes. Taxes shall be levied by general laws for public purposes.

Section 2. Tax power inalienable. The power to tax shall never be surrendered, suspended, or contracted away.

Section 3. Property tax administration. The state shall appraise, assess, and equalize the valuation of all property which is to be taxed in the manner provided by law.

Section 4. Equal valuation. All taxing jurisdictions shall use the assessed valuation of property established by the state.

Section 5. Property tax exemptions. (1) The legislature may exempt from taxation:

(a) Property of the United States, the state, counties, cities, towns, school districts, municipal corporations, and public libraries, but any private interest in such property may be taxed separately.

(b) Institutions of purely public charity, hospitals and places of burial not used or held for private or corporate profit, places for actual religious worship, and property used exclusively for educational purposes.

(c) Any other classes of property.

(2) The legislature may authorize creation of special improvement districts for capital improvements and the maintenance thereof. It may authorize the assessment of charges for such improvements and maintenance against tax exempt property directly benefited thereby.

Section 6. Highway revenue non-diversion. (1) Revenue from gross vehicle weight fees and excise and license taxes (except general sales and use taxes) on gasoline, fuel, and other energy sources used to propel vehicles on public highways shall be used as authorized by the legislature, after deduction of statutory refunds and adjustments, solely for:

(a) Payment of obligations incurred for construction, reconstruction, repair, operation, and maintenance of public highways, streets, roads, and bridges.

(b) Payment of county, city, and town obligations on streets, roads, and bridges.

(c) Enforcement of highway safety, driver education, tourist promotion, and administrative collection costs.

(2) Such revenue may be appropriated for other purposes by a three-fifths vote of the members of each house of the legislature.

Section 7. Tax appeals. The legislature shall provide independent appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances about appraisals, assessments, equalization, and taxes. The legislature shall include a review procedure at the local government unit level.

Section 8. State debt. No state debt shall be created unless authorized by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house of the legislature or a majority of the electors voting thereon. No state debt shall be created to cover deficits incurred because appropriations exceeded anticipated revenue.

Section 9. Balanced budget. Appropriations by the legislature shall not exceed anticipated revenue.

Section 10. Local government debt. The legislature shall by law limit debts of counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 11. Use of loan proceeds. All money borrowed by or on behalf of the state or any county, city, town, or other local governmental entity shall be used only for purposes specified in the authorizing law.

Section 12. Strict accountability. The legislature shall by law insure strict accountability of all revenue received and money spent by the state and counties, cities, towns, and all other local governmental entities.

Section 13. Investment of public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets. (1) The legislature shall provide for a unified investment program for public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets and provide rules therefor, including supervision of investment of surplus funds of all counties, cities, towns, and other local governmental entities. Each fund forming a part of the unified investment program shall be separately identified. Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4), no public funds shall be invested in private corporate capital stock. The investment program shall be audited at least annually and a report thereof submitted to the governor and legislature.

(2) The public school fund and the permanent funds of the Montana university system and all other state institutions of learning shall be safely and conservatively invested in:

(a) Public securities of the state, its subdivisions, local government units, and districts within the state, or

(b) Bonds of the United States or other securities fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, or

(c) Such other safe investments bearing a fixed rate of interest as may be provided by law.

(3) Investment of public retirement system assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a

prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of an enterprise of a similar character with similar aims. Public retirement system assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock.

(4) Investment of state compensation insurance fund assets shall be managed in a fiduciary capacity in the same manner that a prudent expert acting in a fiduciary capacity and familiar with the circumstances would use in the conduct of a private insurance organization. State compensation insurance fund assets may be invested in private corporate capital stock. However, the stock investments shall not exceed 25 percent of the book value of the state compensation insurance fund's total invested assets.

Section 14. Prohibited payments. Except for interest on the public debt, no money shall be paid out of the treasury unless upon an appropriation made by law and a warrant drawn by the proper officer in pursuance thereof.

Section 15. Public retirement system assets. (1) Public retirement systems shall be funded on an actuarially sound basis. Public retirement system assets, including income and actuarially required contributions, shall not be encumbered, diverted, reduced, or terminated and shall be held in trust to provide benefits to participants and their beneficiaries and to defray administrative expenses.

(2) The governing boards of public retirement systems shall administer the system, including actuarial determinations, as fiduciaries of system participants and their beneficiaries.

Section 16. Limitation on sales tax or use tax rates. The rate of a general statewide sales tax or use tax may not exceed 4%.

Section 17. Prohibition on real property transfer taxes. The state or any local government unit may not impose any tax, including a sales tax, on the sale or transfer of real property.

ARTICLE IX

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1. Protection and improvement. (1) The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana for present and future generations.

(2) The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty.

(3) The legislature shall provide adequate remedies for the protection of the environmental life support system from degradation and provide adequate remedies to prevent unreasonable depletion and degradation of natural resources.

Section 2. Reclamation. (1) All lands disturbed by the taking of natural resources shall be reclaimed. The legislature shall provide effective requirements and standards for the reclamation of lands disturbed.

(2) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the resource indemnity trust of the state of Montana, to be funded by such taxes on the extraction of natural resources as the legislature may from time to time impose for that purpose.

(3) The principal of the resource indemnity trust shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000), guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 3. Water rights. (1) All existing rights to the use of any waters for any useful or beneficial purpose are hereby recognized and confirmed.

(2) The use of all water that is now or may hereafter be appropriated for sale, rent, distribution, or other beneficial use, the right of way over the lands of others for all ditches, drains, flumes, canals, and aqueducts necessarily used in connection therewith, and the sites for reservoirs necessary for collecting and storing water shall be held to be a public use.

(3) All surface, underground, flood, and atmospheric waters within the boundaries of the state are the property of the state for the use of its people and are subject to appropriation for beneficial uses as provided by law.

(4) The legislature shall provide for the administration, control, and regulation of water rights and shall establish a system of centralized records, in addition to the present system of local records.

Section 4. Cultural resources. The legislature shall provide for the identification, acquisition, restoration, enhancement, preservation, and administration of scenic, historic, archeologic, scientific, cultural, and recreational areas, sites, records and objects, and for their use and enjoyment by the people.

Section 5. Severance tax on coal — trust fund. The legislature shall dedicate not less than one-fourth (1/4) of the coal severance tax to a trust fund, the interest and income from which may be appropriated. The principal of the trust shall forever remain inviolate unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the members of each house of the

legislature. After December 31, 1979, at least fifty percent (50%) of the severance tax shall be dedicated to the trust fund.

Section 6. Noxious weed management trust fund. (1) The legislature shall provide for a fund, to be known as the noxious weed management trust of the state of Montana, to be funded as provided by law.

(2) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund shall forever remain inviolate in an amount of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) unless appropriated by vote of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the members of each house of the legislature.

(3) The interest and income generated from the noxious weed management trust fund may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the interest and income shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

(4) The principal of the noxious weed management trust fund in excess of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) may be appropriated by a majority vote of each house of the legislature. Appropriations of the principal in excess of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be used only to fund the noxious weed management program, as provided by law.

Section 7. Preservation of harvest heritage. The opportunity to harvest wild fish and wild game animals is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state and does not create a right to trespass on private property or diminution of other private rights.

ARTICLE X

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

(2) The state recognizes the distinct and unique cultural heritage of the American Indians and is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural integrity.

(3) The legislature shall provide a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools. The legislature may provide such other educational institutions, public libraries, and educational programs as it deems desirable. It shall fund and distribute in an equitable manner

to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system.

Section 2. Public school fund. The public school fund of the state shall consist of:

(1) Proceeds from the school lands which have been or may hereafter be granted by the United States,

(2) Lands granted in lieu thereof,

(3) Lands given or granted by any person or corporation under any law or grant of the United States,

(4) All other grants of land or money made from the United States for general educational purposes or without special purpose,

(5) All interests in estates that escheat to the state,

(6) All unclaimed shares and dividends of any corporation incorporated in the state,

(7) All other grants, gifts, devises or bequests made to the state for general educational purposes.

Section 3. Public school fund inviolate. The public school fund shall forever remain inviolate, guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion.

Section 4. Board of land commissioners. The governor, superintendent of public instruction, auditor, secretary of state, and attorney general constitute the board of land commissioners. It has the authority to direct, control, lease, exchange, and sell school lands and lands which have been or may be granted for the support and benefit of the various state educational institutions, under such regulations and restrictions as may be provided by law.

Section 5. Public school fund revenue. (1) Ninety-five percent of all the interest received on the public school fund and ninety-five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall be equitably apportioned annually to public elementary and secondary school districts as provided by law.

(2) The remaining five percent of all interest received on the public school fund, and the remaining five percent of all rent received from the leasing of school lands and all other income from the public school fund shall annually be added to the public school fund and become and forever remain an inseparable and inviolable part thereof.

Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect

appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

(2) This section shall not apply to funds from federal sources provided to the state for the express purpose of distribution to non-public education.

Section 7. Nondiscrimination in education. No religious or partisan test or qualification shall be required of any teacher or student as a condition of admission into any public educational institution. Attendance shall not be required at any religious service. No sectarian tenets shall be advocated in any public educational institution of the state. No person shall be refused admission to any public educational institution on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin.

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Section 9. Boards of education. (1) There is a state board of education composed of the board of regents of higher education and the board of public education. It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. It shall submit unified budget requests. A tie vote at any meeting may be broken by the governor, who is an ex officio member of each component board.

(2) (a) The government and control of the Montana university system is vested in a board of regents of higher education which shall have full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage and control the Montana university system and shall supervise and coordinate other public educational institutions assigned by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms, as provided by law. The governor and superintendent of public instruction are ex officio non-voting members of the board.

(c) The board shall appoint a commissioner of higher education and prescribe his term and duties.

(d) The funds and appropriations under the control of the board of regents are subject to the same audit provisions as are all other state funds.

(3) (a) There is a board of public education to exercise general supervision over the public school system and such other public educational institutions as may be assigned by law. Other duties of the board shall be provided by law.

(b) The board consists of seven members appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the senate, to overlapping terms as provided by law. The governor, commissioner of higher education and state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio non-voting members of the board.

Section 10. State university funds. The funds of the Montana university system and of all other state institutions of learning, from whatever source accruing, shall forever remain inviolate and sacred to the purpose for which they were dedicated. The various funds shall be respectively invested under such regulations as may be provided by law, and shall be guaranteed by the state against loss or diversion. The interest from such invested funds, together with the rent from leased lands or properties, shall be devoted to the maintenance and perpetuation of the respective institutions.

Section 11. Public land trust, disposition. (1) All lands of the state that have been or may be granted by congress, or acquired by gift or grant or devise from any person or corporation, shall be public lands of the state. They shall be held in trust for the people, to be disposed of as hereafter provided, for the respective purposes for which they have been or may be granted, donated or devised.

(2) No such land or any estate or interest therein shall ever be disposed of except in pursuance of general laws providing for such disposition, or until the full market value of the estate or interest disposed of, to be ascertained in such manner as may be provided by law, has been paid or safely secured to the state.

(3) No land which the state holds by grant from the United States which prescribes the manner of disposal and minimum price shall be disposed of except in the manner and for at least the price prescribed without the consent of the United States.

(4) All public land shall be classified by the board of land commissioners in a manner provided by law. Any public land may be exchanged for other land, public or private, which is equal in value and, as closely as possible, equal in area.

ARTICLE XI

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Section 1. Definition. The term "local government units" includes, but is not limited to, counties and incorporated cities

and towns. Other local government units may be established by law.

Section 2. Counties. The counties of the state are those that exist on the date of ratification of this constitution. No county boundary may be changed or county seat transferred until approved by a majority of those voting on the question in each county affected.

Section 3. Forms of government. (1) The legislature shall provide methods for governing local government units and procedures for incorporating, classifying, merging, consolidating, and dissolving such units, and altering their boundaries. The legislature shall provide such optional or alternative forms of government that each unit or combination of units may adopt, amend, or abandon an optional or alternative form by a majority of those voting on the question.

(2) One optional form of county government includes, but is not limited to, the election of three county commissioners, a clerk and recorder, a clerk of district court, a county attorney, a sheriff, a treasurer, a surveyor, a county superintendent of schools, an assessor, a coroner, and a public administrator. The terms, qualifications, duties, and compensation of those offices shall be provided by law. The Board of county commissioners may consolidate two or more such offices. The Boards of two or more counties may provide for a joint office and for the election of one official to perform the duties of any such office in those counties.

Section 4. General powers. (1) A local government unit without self-government powers has the following general powers:

(a) An incorporated city or town has the powers of a municipal corporation and legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(b) A county has legislative, administrative, and other powers provided or implied by law.

(c) Other local government units have powers provided by law.

(2) The powers of incorporated cities and towns and counties shall be liberally construed.

Section 5. Self-government charters. (1) The legislature shall provide procedures permitting a local government unit or combination of units to frame, adopt, amend, revise, or abandon a self-government charter with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question. The procedures shall not require approval of a charter by a legislative body.

(2) If the legislature does not provide such procedures by July 1, 1975, they may be established by election either:

(a) Initiated by petition in the local government unit or combination of units; or

(b) Called by the governing body of the local government unit or combination of units.

(3) Charter provisions establishing executive, legislative, and administrative structure and organization are superior to statutory provisions.

Section 6. Self-government powers. A local government unit adopting a self-government charter may exercise any power not prohibited by this constitution, law, or charter. This grant of self-government powers may be extended to other local government units through optional forms of government provided for in section 3.

Section 7. Intergovernmental cooperation. (1) Unless prohibited by law or charter, a local government unit may

(a) cooperate in the exercise of any function, power, or responsibility with,

(b) share the services of any officer or facilities with,

(c) transfer or delegate any function, power, responsibility, or duty of any officer to one or more other local government units, school districts, the state, or the United States.

(2) The qualified electors of a local government unit may, by initiative or referendum, require it to do so.

Section 8. Initiative and referendum. The legislature shall extend the initiative and referendum powers reserved to the people by the constitution to the qualified electors of each local government unit.

Section 9. Voter review of local government. (1) The legislature shall, within four years of the ratification of this constitution, provide procedures requiring each local government unit or combination of units to review its structure and submit one alternative form of government to the qualified electors at the next general or special election.

(2) The legislature shall require an election in each local government to determine whether a local government will undertake a review procedure once every ten years after the first election. Approval by a majority of those voting in the decennial general election on the question of undertaking a local government review is necessary to mandate the election of a local government study commission. Study commission

members shall be elected during any regularly scheduled election in local governments mandating their election.

ARTICLE XII

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Agriculture. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Agriculture and enact laws and provide appropriations to protect, enhance, and develop all agriculture.

(2) Special levies may be made on livestock and on agricultural commodities for disease control and indemnification, predator control, and livestock and commodity inspection, protection, research, and promotion. Revenue derived shall be used solely for the purposes of the levies.

Section 2. Labor. (1) The legislature shall provide for a Department of Labor and Industry, headed by a Commissioner appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

(2) A maximum period of 8 hours is a regular day's work in all industries and employment except agriculture and stock raising. The legislature may change this maximum period to promote the general welfare.

Section 3. Institutions and assistance. (1) The state shall establish and support institutions and facilities as the public good may require, including homes which may be necessary and desirable for the care of veterans.

(2) Persons committed to any such institutions shall retain all rights except those necessarily suspended as a condition of commitment. Suspended rights are restored upon termination of the state's responsibility.

(3) The legislature may provide such economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services for those who, by reason of age, infirmities, or misfortune are determined by the legislature to be in need.

(4) The legislature may set eligibility criteria for programs and services, as well as for the duration and level of benefits and services.

Section 4. Montana tobacco settlement trust fund. (1) The legislature shall dedicate not less than two-fifths of any tobacco settlement proceeds received on or after January 1, 2001, to a trust fund, nine-tenths of the interest and income of which may be appropriated. One-tenth of the interest and income derived from the trust fund on or after January 1,

2001, shall be deposited in the trust fund. The principal of the trust fund and one-tenth of the interest and income deposited in the trust fund shall remain forever inviolate unless appropriated by a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house of the legislature.

(2) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall be used only for tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs providing benefits, services, or coverage that are related to the health care needs of the people of Montana and may not be used for other purposes.

(3) Appropriations of the interest, income, or principal from the trust fund shall not be used to replace state or federal money used to fund tobacco disease prevention programs and state programs that existed on December 31, 1999, providing benefits, services, or coverage of the health care needs of the people of Montana.

ARTICLE XIII GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Nonmunicipal corporations. (1) Corporate charters shall be granted, modified, or dissolved only pursuant to general law.

(2) The legislature shall provide protection and education for the people against harmful and unfair practices by either foreign or domestic corporations, individuals, or associations.

(3) The legislature shall pass no law retrospective in its operations which imposes on the people a new liability in respect to transactions or considerations already passed.

Section 2. Consumer counsel. The legislature shall provide for an office of consumer counsel which shall have the duty of representing consumer interests in hearings before the public service commission or any other successor agency. The legislature shall provide for the funding of the office of consumer counsel by a special tax on the net income or gross revenues of regulated companies.

Section 3. Repealed. Sec. 1, Const. Amend. No. 16, approved Nov. 4, 1986.

Section 4. Code of ethics. The legislature shall provide a code of ethics prohibiting conflict between public duty and private interest for members of the legislature and all state and local officers and employees.

Section 5. Exemption laws. The legislature shall enact liberal homestead and exemption laws.

Section 6. Perpetuities. No perpetuities shall be allowed except for charitable purposes.

Section 7. Marriage. Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state.

ARTICLE XIV CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

Section 1. Constitutional convention. The legislature, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members, whether one or more bodies, may at any time submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution.

Section 2. Initiative for constitutional convention. (1) The people may by initiative petition direct the secretary of state to submit to the qualified electors the question of whether there shall be an unlimited convention to revise, alter, or amend this constitution. The petition shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the legislative districts.

(2) The secretary of state shall certify the filing of the petition in his office and cause the question to be submitted at the next general election.

Section 3. Periodic submission. If the question of holding a convention is not otherwise submitted during any period of 20 years, it shall be submitted as provided by law at the general election in the twentieth year following the last submission.

Section 4. Call of convention. If a majority of those voting on the question answer in the affirmative, the legislature shall provide for the calling thereof at its next session. The number of delegates to the convention shall be the same as that of the larger body of the legislature. The qualifications of delegates shall be the same as the highest qualifications required for election to the legislature. The legislature shall determine whether the delegates may be nominated on a partisan or a non-partisan basis. They shall be elected at the same places and in the same districts as are the members of the legislative body determining the number of delegates.

Section 5. Convention expenses. The legislature shall, in the act calling the convention, designate the day, hour, and place of its meeting, and fix and provide for the pay of its

members and officers and the necessary expenses of the convention.

Section 6. Oath, vacancies. Before proceeding, the delegates shall take the oath provided in this constitution. Vacancies occurring shall be filled in the manner provided for filling vacancies in the legislature if not otherwise provided by law.

Section 7. Convention duties. The convention shall meet after the election of the delegates and prepare such revisions, alterations, or amendments to the constitution as may be deemed necessary. They shall be submitted to the qualified electors for ratification or rejection as a whole or in separate articles or amendments as determined by the convention at an election appointed by the convention for that purpose not less than two months after adjournment. Unless so submitted and approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, no such revision, alteration, or amendment shall take effect.

Section 8. Amendment by legislative referendum. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any member of the legislature. If adopted by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds of all the members thereof, whether one or more bodies, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors at the next general election. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, the amendment shall become a part of this constitution on the first day of July after certification of the election returns unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 9. Amendment by initiative. (1) The people may also propose constitutional amendments by initiative. Petitions including the full text of the proposed amendment shall be signed by at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the state. That number shall include at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of at least one-half of the counties.

(2) The petitions shall be filed with the secretary of state. If the petitions are found to have been signed by the required number of electors, the secretary of state shall cause the amendment to be published as provided by law twice each month for two months previous to the next regular state-wide election.

(3) At that election, the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the qualified electors for approval or rejection. If approved by a majority voting thereon, it shall become a part of the constitution effective the first day of July following its approval, unless the amendment provides otherwise.

Section 10. Petition signers. The number of qualified electors required for the filing of any petition provided for in this Article shall be determined by the number of votes cast for the office of governor in the preceding general election.

Section 11. Submission. If more than one amendment is submitted at the same election, each shall be so prepared and distinguished that it can be voted upon separately.

Leo Graybill, Jr., President
Jean M. Bowman, Secretary
Magnus Aasheim
John H. Anderson, Jr.
Oscar L. Anderson
Harold Arbanas
Franklin Arness
Cedor B. Aronow
William H. Artz
Thomas M. Ask
Betty Babcock
Lloyd Barnard
Grace C. Bates
Don E. Belcher
Ben E. Berg, Jr.
E. M. Berthelson
Chet Blaylock
Virginia H. Blend
Geoffrey L. Brazier
Bruce M. Brown
Daphne Bugbee
William A. Burkhardt
Marjorie Cain
Bob Campbell
Jerome J. Cate
Richard J. Champoux
Lyman W. Choate
Max Conover
C. Louise Cross
Wade J. Dahood
Carl M. Davis
Douglas Delaney
Maurice Driscoll
Dave Drum
Dorothy Eck
Marian S. Erdmann
Leslie Eskildsen
Mark Etchart
James R. Felt
Donald R. Foster
Noel D. Furlong
J. C. Garlington
E. S. Gysler
Otto T. Habedank
Rod Hanson
R. S. Hanson
Gene Harbaugh
Paul K. Harlow

George Harper
Daniel W. Harrington
George B. Heliker
David L. Holland
Arnold W. Jacobsen
George H. James
Torrey B. Johnson
Thomas F. Joyce
A. W. Kamhoot
Robert Lee Kelleher
John H. Leuthold
Jerome T. Loendorf
Peter "Pete" Lorello
Joseph H. McCarvel
Russell C. McDonough
Mike McKeon
Charles B. McNeil
Charles H. Mahoney
Rachell K. Mansfield
Fred J. Martin
J. Mason Melvin
Lyle R. Monroe
Marshall Murray
Robert B. Noble
Richard A. Nutting
Mrs. Thomas Payne
Catherine Pemberton
Donald Rebal
Arlyne E. Reichert
Mrs. Mae Nan Robinson
Richard B. Roeder
George W. Rollins
Miles Romney
Sterling Rygg
Don Scanlin
John M. Schiltz
Henry Siderius
Clark E. Simon
Carman M. Skari
M. Lynn Sparks
Lucile Speer
R. J. Studer, Sr.
Mrs. John Justin
(Veronica) Sullivan
William H. Swanberg
John H. Toole
Mrs. Edith M. Van Buskirk
Robert Vermillion

Roger A. Wagner
Jack K. Ward
Margaret S. Warden

Archie O. Wilson
Robert F. Woodmansey

Done in open convention at the city of Helena, in the state of Montana, this twenty-second day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two.

TRANSITION SCHEDULE

Transition Schedule. The following provisions shall remain part of this Constitution until their terms have been executed. Once each year the attorney general shall review the following provisions and certify to the secretary of state which, if any, have been executed. Any provisions so certified shall thereafter be removed from this Schedule and no longer published as part of this Constitution.

Section 1. Accelerated effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Section 2. Delayed effective date. Executed (certified by letter, December 4, 1974).

Section 3. Prospective operation of declaration of rights. Any rights, procedural or substantive, created for the first time by Article II shall be prospective and not retroactive.

Section 4. Terms of judiciary. Executed (certified by letter, December 20, 1978).

Section 5. Terms of legislators. Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

Section 6. General transition. (1) The rights and duties of all public bodies shall remain as if this Constitution had not been adopted with the exception of such changes as are contained in this Constitution. All laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules of court not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Constitution shall remain in force, until they shall expire by their own limitation or shall be altered or repealed pursuant to this Constitution.

(2) The validity of all public and private bonds, debts, and contracts, and of all suits, actions, and rights of action, shall continue as if no change had taken place.

(3) Executed (certified by letter, February 22, 1977).

**INDEX TO
THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STATE OF MONTANA**

References are to Article and Section Numbers

A

Abolishment of constitution, right of people, Art. II, sec. 2

Adults, person 18 years of age or older an adult and exception, Art. II, sec. 14
elections, qualified electors, Art. IV, sec. 2
person under 18 years of age entitled to all rights not specifically precluded, Art. II, sec. 15

Aged persons, economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services — provision for, Art. XII, sec. 3

Agriculture, Art. XII, sec. 1
hours of work for laborers, Art. XII, sec. 2

Agriculture, Department of, Art. XII, sec. 1

Alcoholic beverages — legal age for purchase, consumption, or possession, Art. II, sec. 14; Art. II, sec. 15

Amendment of constitution, See also **Convention for amendment of constitution**

bills for, governor's signature not required, Art. VI, sec. 10

effective date, Art. XIV, sec. 8; Art. XIV, sec. 9

electors, qualified — number, determination, Art. III, sec. 7

initiative, by, Art. XIV, sec. 2; Art. XIV, sec. 9
petition, Art. XIV, sec. 9; Art. XIV, sec. 10

multiple amendments, submission to electorate, Art. XIV, sec. 11

publication of amendments or proposed amendments, Art. XIV, sec. 9

referendum, by, Art. XIV, sec. 1; Art. XIV, sec. 8

right of people, Art. II, sec. 2

Appeals

district court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4

supreme court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2

tax appeals, Art. VIII, sec. 7

Apportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, Art. V, sec. 14

Archaeologic areas, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4

Armed persons, importation, Art. II, sec. 33

Arms, right to bear, Art. II, sec. 12

Arrests

electors at polling places, immunity, Art. IV, sec. 6

legislative members, immunity, Art. V, sec. 8

Arrests (continued)

warrant for, required, Art. II, sec. 11

Assembly, freedom of, Art. II, sec. 6**Attainder of treason or felony by legislature prohibited, Art. II, sec. 30****Attorney general, Art. VI, sec. 1, See also Executive branch**

duties, Art. VI, sec. 1; Art. VI, sec. 4

election, Art. VI, sec. 2

land commissioners, board of — member, Art. X, sec. 4

qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3

term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1

 limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8

vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6

Attorneys at law

attorney general to be, Art. VI, sec. 3

bar admission, rules of supreme court, Art. VII, sec. 2

criminal actions, right to counsel, Art. II, sec. 24

judicial officers, practice of law prohibited, Art. VII,
sec. 9

judicial standards commission, appointment to, Art.
VII, sec. 11

B

Bail, Art. II, sec. 21; Art. II, sec. 22, See also Crimes and criminal procedure**Ballot issues, Art. IV, sec. 7**

challenges, pre- or postelection, Art. IV, sec. 7

elections, general or special, Art. III, sec. 6; Art. IV,
sec. 7

initiatives, Art. III, sec. 4

 alcoholic beverages — to establish legal age for
 purchase, consumption, or possession, Art. II,
 sec. 14

 constitutional convention or amendment, for, Art.
 XIV, sec. 2

 gambling, authorization by, Art. III, sec. 9

 local government, powers reserved to qualified
 electors, Art. XI, sec. 7; Art. XI, sec. 8

 reservation of powers by the people, Art. V, sec. 1

 veto, not subject to, Art. VI, sec. 10

referendums, Art. III, sec. 5

 constitutional convention or amendment, for, Art.
 XIV, sec. 1; Art. XIV, sec. 8

 gambling, authorization by, Art. III, sec. 9

Ballot issues (continued)

referendums (continued)

local government, powers reserved to qualified electors, Art. XI, sec. 7; Art. XI, sec. 8

reservation of powers by the people, Art. V, sec. 1

veto, not subject to, Art. VI, sec. 10

Bill of rights, Art. II, See also Rights**Budget**

appropriations not to exceed anticipated revenue, Art.

VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9

governor to submit to legislature, Art. VI, sec. 9

C**Cemeteries, property tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5****Charities**

appropriations for private purposes prohibited, Art. V, sec. 11

perpetuities prohibited except for charitable purposes, Art. XIII, sec. 6

property tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5

Cities, Art. XI, See Local government**Citizenship, restoration by governor, Art. VI, sec. 12****Civil actions and procedure**

appeals, See Appeals

courts open to every person, Art. II, sec. 16

debt, imprisonment for, Art. II, sec. 27

district court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4

due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17

eminent domain, Art. II, sec. 29

employment injury, right of employee to redress, Art. II, sec. 16

jury trial, right to, Art. II, sec. 26

libel or slander, evidence and determination of issues, Art. II, sec. 7

preexisting actions, effect of constitution, Transition Schedule, sec. 6

right and justice to be administered without sale, denial, or delay, Art. II, sec. 16

sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, Art. II, sec. 18

speedy remedy for every injury, Art. II, sec. 16

Civil rights, See Rights**Coal severance tax, trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5****Colleges, See Education**

- Commutations of sentences, governor's power to grant,**
Art. VI, sec. 12
- Compact with United States not affected by new constitution, Art. I**
- Concealed weapons, carrying not permitted, Art. II,**
sec. 12
- Congressional districts, districting and apportionment,**
Art. V, sec. 14
- Congressional representatives or senators**
 - legislature, member of — prohibited, Art. V, sec. 9
 - term limitations, Art. IV, sec. 8
- Consumer counsel, Art. XIII, sec. 2**
- Consumer protection**
 - consumer counsel, representation of consumer interests
before public service commission, Art. XIII, sec. 2
 - corporate practices, Art. XIII, sec. 1
- Continuity of government during periods of emergency, Art. III, sec. 2**
- Contracts**
 - impairing obligation of contracts by law prohibited, Art.
II, sec. 31
 - preexisting contracts, obligation unimpaired, Transition
Schedule, sec. 6
- Convention for amendment of constitution, Art. XIV,**
sec. 1, See also **Amendment of constitution**
 - applicability of general government laws, Art. III, sec. 8
 - call, Art. XIV, sec. 2; Art. XIV, sec. 4
 - duties, Art. XIV, sec. 7
 - expenses, Art. XIV, sec. 5
 - oath of delegates, Art. XIV, sec. 6
 - periodic submission of question to electorate, Art. XIV,
sec. 3
 - petition, Art. XIV, sec. 2; Art. XIV, sec. 10
 - vacancies among delegates, Art. XIV, sec. 6
- Corporations**
 - appropriation for private association or corporation
prohibited, Art. V, sec. 11
 - charters granted, modified, or dissolved pursuant to
general law and consumer protection laws to be
provided, Art. XIII, sec. 1
 - municipal, property tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5
- Counties, Art. XI, See Local government**
- Courts, Art. VII; Transition Schedule, sec. 6, See also**
specific court or subject

Crimes and criminal procedure

accused, rights generally, Art. II, sec. 24

appeals, See **Appeals**

arrests, See **Arrests**

attainder prohibited, Art. II, sec. 30

bail

excessive, prohibited, Art. II, sec. 22

offenses bailable, Art. II, sec. 21

commencement of proceedings, Art. II, sec. 20

courts open to every person, Art. II, sec. 16

debt, imprisonment for, Art. II, sec. 27

deposition of witnesses, Art. II, sec. 23

district court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4

double jeopardy prohibited, Art. II, sec. 25

due process of law, Art. II, sec. 17

executive clemency, Art. VI, sec. 12

finer

excessive, prohibited, Art. II, sec. 22

suspension or remission by governor, Art. VI, sec. 12

grand jury, Art. II, sec. 20

habeas corpus, privilege of writ, Art. II, sec. 19

supreme court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2

jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2; Art. VII, sec. 4

jury trial, right to, Art. II, sec. 24; Art. II, sec. 26

justices' courts jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 5

libel or slander, evidence and determination of issues,
Art. II, sec. 7

punishment

cruel and unusual, prohibited, Art. II, sec. 22

prevention, reformation, public safety, and victim
restitution — founded on principles of, Art. II,
sec. 28

public office, eligibility suspended, Art. IV, sec. 4

restoration of rights on termination of state

supervision, Art. II, sec. 28

voting, suspension of right, Art. IV, sec. 2

searches and seizures, requirements, Art. II, sec. 11

self-incrimination, compulsion prohibited, Art. II,
sec. 25

treason, Art. II, sec. 30

venue of prosecutions and change, Art. II, sec. 24

witnesses

accused's right to meet face to face and to compel
attendance, Art. II, sec. 23; Art. II, sec. 24

detention of person as witness, limitations, Art. II,
sec. 23

treason, requirements, Art. II, sec. 30

Cultural resources, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4

D

Debt

imprisonment for, Art. II, sec. 27
preexisting, effect of constitution, Transition Schedule, sec. 6

Debt limitations

balanced budget, Art. VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9
loan proceeds, use, Art. VIII, sec. 11
local governmental entities, establishment of
limitations by legislature, Art. VIII, sec. 10
state debt, Art. VIII, sec. 8

Defamation, evidence and determination of issues, Art. II, sec. 7

Dignity of human being, protection, Art. II, sec. 4

Disabilities, persons with — economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services, provision for, Art. XII, sec. 3

Disasters, See Emergencies

Discrimination because of race, color, sex, culture, social origin or condition, or political or religious ideas prohibited, Art. II, sec. 4

education, nondiscrimination in, Art. X, sec. 7
military personnel and veterans, preferences, Art. II, sec. 35

District courts, See also Judiciary

criminal offenses, prosecution, Art. II, sec. 20
judges, Art. VII, sec. 6, See also **Judges and justices**
compensation and terms, Art. VII, sec. 7
judicial standards commission, appointment to, Art. VII, sec. 11
qualifications, Art. VII, sec. 9
selection, Art. VII, sec. 8
supreme court justice, substitution for, Art. VII, sec. 3
judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6
jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 4
vesting of judicial power in, Art. VII, sec. 1

Districting and apportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, Art. V, sec. 14

Double jeopardy prohibited, Art. II, sec. 25

Due process of law guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 17

E

Education, Art. X

boards of education

board of public education, Art. X, sec. 9

board of regents of higher education, Art. X, sec. 9

school district trustees, Art. X, sec. 8

state board of education, Art. X, sec. 9

discrimination prohibited, Art. X, sec. 7

equality of opportunity guaranteed, Art. X, sec. 1

goals and duties, Art. X, sec. 1

higher education, commissioner of, Art. X, sec. 9

private education, appropriations prohibited, Art. V,
sec. 11

property tax exemptions, Art. VIII, sec. 5

public school fund, Art. X, sec. 2

interest and income, apportionment, Art. X, sec. 5

investment, Art. VIII, sec. 13

inviolable and guaranteed against loss or diversion,
Art. X, sec. 3; Art. X, sec. 5

religion

aid to sectarian schools prohibited, exception, Art.
V, sec. 11; Art. X, sec. 6

nondiscrimination in education, Art. X, sec. 7

school lands

income, apportionment to school districts, Art. X,
sec. 5

land commissioners, board of — authority, Art. X,
sec. 4

public school fund, proceeds from lands part of, Art.
X, sec. 2

superintendent of public instruction, See

Superintendent of public instruction

university funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13; Art. X, sec. 10

university system, Art. X, sec. 9

Elections, Art. IV, sec. 3

ballot, secret ballot required, Art. IV, sec. 1

constitutional convention, amendments proposed by —
on, Art. XIV, sec. 7

electors

arrest, immunity at polling places, Art. IV, sec. 6

number of qualified electors, determination, Art. III,
sec. 7

public office, eligibility, Art. IV, sec. 4

qualifications, Art. IV, sec. 2

executive branch officers, of, Art. VI, sec. 2; Art. VI,
sec. 6

initiative and referendum, See **Ballot issues**

Elections (continued)

- judges and justices, of, Art. VII, sec. 8
- local government, voter review, Art. XI, sec. 9
- results, largest number of votes elects, Art. IV, sec. 5
- right of suffrage, Art. II, sec. 13

Emergencies

- call of militia, Art. VI, sec. 13
- continuity of government, Art. III, sec. 2

Eminent domain, just compensation required, Art. II, sec. 29**Employment**, See **Labor and employment****Enabling Act** continued in force, Art. I**Environment**, Preamble, See also **Natural resources**

- protection and improvement, Art. IX, sec. 1
- right to clean and healthful environment, Art. II, sec. 3

Equality, Preamble; Art. II, sec. 4; Art. X, sec. 1**Estates** — descent not jeopardized by treason, felony conviction, or suicide, Art. II, sec. 30**Ethics**

- code prohibiting conflicts of interest involving legislators and other public officials, Art. XIII, sec. 4
- judicial, discipline for violation, Art. VII, sec. 11

Executive branch, Art. VI

- budget, Art. VI, sec. 9
- departments, Art. VI, sec. 7; Art. VI, sec. 8
 - agriculture, department of, Art. XII, sec. 1
 - heads of departments, Art. VI, sec. 8
 - removal from office, Art. V, sec. 13; Art. VI, sec. 8
 - labor and industry, department of, Art. XII, sec. 2
- ethics, code of — for officers and employees, Art. XIII, sec. 4
- officers, See also specific officer
 - compensation, Art. VI, sec. 5
 - duties, Art. VI, sec. 4
 - election, Art. VI, sec. 2
 - enumeration, Art. VI, sec. 1
 - impeachment, Art. V, sec. 13
 - information to governor, Art. VI, sec. 15
 - oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3
 - public office, may not hold other office but candidacy for permitted, Art. VI, sec. 5
 - qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3
 - vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6
- public right of participation in decisionmaking process, Art. II, sec. 8

Executive branch (continued)

separation of powers, Art. III, sec. 1

temporary commissions, Art. VI, sec. 7

Executive clemency, Art. VI, sec. 12**Exemptions**

liberal exemption laws to be enacted, Art. XIII, sec. 5

property tax, Art. VIII, sec. 5

Ex post facto laws prohibited, Art. II, sec. 31; Art. XIII, sec. 1**Expression, freedom of, Art. II, sec. 7****F****Finance, See Revenue and finance****Fines and forfeitures**

excessive, prohibited, Art. II, sec. 22

suspension and remission by governor, Art. VI, sec. 12

Franchises, special grant by law prohibited, Art. II, sec. 31**G****Gambling prohibited unless authorized by legislature or by people, Art. III, sec. 9****Governor, Art. VI, sec. 1, See also Executive branch appointments**

department heads, Art. VI, sec. 8; Art. XII, sec. 2

education, boards of, Art. X, sec. 9

judges and justices, Art. VII, sec. 8

vacancy in executive office, Art. VI, sec. 6

armed persons, importation into state, Art. II, sec. 33

budget, submission to legislature, Art. VI, sec. 9

departments of state government, supervision, Art. VI, sec. 8

duties, Art. VI, sec. 1; Art. VI, sec. 4

education, boards of — ex officio member, Art. X, sec. 9

election, Art. VI, sec. 2

executive clemency, Art. VI, sec. 12

executive power vested in, Art. VI, sec. 4

fines and forfeitures, power to suspend or remit, Art. VI, sec. 12

impeachment, subject to, Art. V, sec. 13

information from executive branch and institution

officers, authority to require, Art. VI, sec. 15

investment of public funds, report to, Art. VIII, sec. 13

land commissioners, board of — member, Art. X, sec. 4

Governor (continued)

legislature

budget and messages to, Art. VI, sec. 9

special sessions, authority to convene, Art. V, sec. 6;

Art. VI, sec. 11

military affairs, commander-in-chief, Art. VI, sec. 13

qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3

reprieves, commutations, and pardons — power to grant, Art. VI, sec. 12

succession to office, Art. VI, sec. 6; Art. VI, sec. 14

term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1

limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8

vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6; Art. VI, sec. 14

veto power, Art. VI, sec. 10

H**Habeas corpus, privilege of writ**, Art. II, sec. 19

supreme court jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2

Harvest heritage, preservation of, Art. IX, sec. 7**Higher education, commissioner of**, Art. X, sec. 9**Highway revenue non-diversion**, Art. VIII, sec. 6**Historic areas, preservation and administration**, Art. IX, sec. 4**Homestead, liberal laws to be enacted**, Art. XIII, sec. 5**Hospitals, property tax exemption**, Art. VIII, sec. 5**I****Immunities, special grant by law prohibited**, Art. II, sec. 31**Impeachment of officers**, Art. V, sec. 13**Indians**

cultural integrity, preservation as educational goal, Art. X, sec. 1

lands under jurisdiction of congress, Art. I

Information, freedom of, Art. II, sec. 9**Initiatives, See Ballot issues****Institutions**, Art. XII, sec. 3

information to governor, Art. VI, sec. 15

Investment of public funds and public retirement system and state compensation insurance fund assets, Art. VIII, sec. 13; Art. X, sec. 10

J

Judges and justices, See also specific court; **Judiciary**
compensation and terms, Art. VII, sec. 7
forfeiture of position when, Art. VII, sec. 10
qualifications, Art. VII, sec. 9
removal and discipline, Art. VII, sec. 11

Judicial Standards Commission, Art. VII, sec. 11

Judiciary, Art. VII, See also specific court or subject
courts to be open to every person, Art. II, sec. 16
elections, contested — determination, Art. V, sec. 10
impeachment of officers, Art. V, sec. 13
judicial districts, Art. VII, sec. 6
oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3
separation of powers, Art. III, sec. 1
vesting of judicial power, Art. VII, sec. 1

Juries

grand jury, Art. II, sec. 20
libel and slander, determination of facts and law, Art.
II, sec. 7
right to jury trial, Art. II, sec. 24; Art. II, sec. 26

Justice, administration of, Art. II, sec. 16

Justices' courts, See also **Judiciary**

jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 5
justices of the peace, Art. VII, sec. 5; Art. VII, sec. 7;
Art. VII, sec. 9, See also **Judges and justices**
vesting of judicial power in, Art. VII, sec. 1

L

Labor and employment

hours of work, Art. XII, sec. 2
injury in employment, right to legal redress, Art. II,
sec. 16

Labor and Industry, Department of, Art. XII, sec. 2

Land Commissioners, Board of, Art. X, sec. 4; Art. X,
sec. 11

Laws

enactment, Art. V, sec. 11, See **Ballot issues**;
Legislature, bills
preexisting, effect of constitution, Transition Schedule,
sec. 6

Legislative Council, establishment, Art. V, sec. 10

Legislative post-audit committee, establishment, Art. V,
sec. 10

Legislature, Art. V

- alcoholic beverages — establishment of legal age for purchase, consumption, or possession, Art. II, sec. 14
- apportionment and districting, Art. V, sec. 14
- appropriations
 - agriculture, for, Art. XII, sec. 1
 - anticipated revenue, not to exceed, Art. VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9
 - bills, generally, Art. V, sec. 11; Art. VI, sec. 10
 - coal severance tax, trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5
 - expenditures, appropriation and issuance of warrant required, Art. VIII, sec. 14
 - initiative or referendum, not permitted for, Art. III, sec. 4; Art. III, sec. 5
 - sectarian education, prohibited for, Art. X, sec. 6
 - tobacco settlement trust fund interest, income, or principal, Art. XII, sec. 4
- armed persons, importation into state, Art. II, sec. 33
- arrest, immunity of members, Art. V, sec. 8
- bills, Art. V, sec. 11
 - signing or veto by governor, Art. VI, sec. 10
 - special or local acts prohibited when, Art. V, sec. 12
- budget
 - balanced, to be, Art. VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9
 - submission by governor, Art. VI, sec. 9
- compensation of members, Art. V, sec. 5
- consumer counsel, provision for office, Art. XIII, sec. 2
- continuity of government in emergency, laws to ensure, Art. III, sec. 2
- disqualification of members for other office, Art. V, sec. 9
- districting and apportionment, Art. V, sec. 14
- election of members, Art. V, sec. 3; Art. V, sec. 7; Art. V, sec. 10
- ethics, code of, Art. XIII, sec. 4
- governor, inability to serve — duties, Art. VI, sec. 14
- house of representatives, Art. V, sec. 1
 - districts, Art. V, sec. 14
 - number of members, Art. V, sec. 2
- impeachment of officers, Art. V, sec. 13
- investment of public funds, reports to, Art. VIII, sec. 13
- judicial districts, formation, Art. VII, sec. 6
- judicial standards commission, creation, Art. VII, sec. 11
- justices of the peace, additional — to provide, Art. VII, sec. 5
- local government
 - debt limitations, establishment, Art. VIII, sec. 10
 - revenue, strict accountability, Art. VIII, sec. 12

Legislature (continued)

- messages submitted by governor, Art. VI, sec. 9
- needy persons — economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services, criteria set by, Art. XII, sec. 3
- noxious weed management trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 6
- oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3
- organization, Art. V, sec. 10
- power, Art. V, sec. 1
- procedure, Art. V, sec. 10
- qualifications of members, Art. V, sec. 4; Art. V, sec. 9; Art. V, sec. 10
- senate, Art. V, sec. 1
 - districts, Art. V, sec. 14
 - governor's appointments, confirmation, Art. VI, sec. 8; Art. VII, sec. 8; Art. X, sec. 9; Art. XII, sec. 2
 - impeachment tribunal, Art. V, sec. 13
 - number of members, Art. V, sec. 2
- separation of powers, Art. III, sec. 1
- sessions, Art. V, sec. 6; Art. V, sec. 10
 - special sessions, Art. V, sec. 6; Art. VI, sec. 11
- size, Art. V, sec. 2
- sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, Art. II, sec. 18
- speeches of members not to be questioned in other place, Art. V, sec. 8
- structure, Art. V, sec. 1
- supreme court
 - justices, number of — increase, Art. VII, sec. 3
 - rules of procedure, disapproval, Art. VII, sec. 2
- terms of members, Art. V, sec. 3
 - limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8
- tobacco settlement trust fund, Art. XII, sec. 4
- vacancies, how filled, Art. V, sec. 7

Libel, evidence and determination of issues, Art. II, sec. 7

Libraries, property tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5

Lieutenant governor, Art. VI, sec. 1, See also **Executive branch**

- acting governor, Art. VI, sec. 14
- duties, Art. VI, sec. 4
- election, Art. VI, sec. 2
- qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3
- succession to office of governor, Art. VI, sec. 6; Art. VI, sec. 14
- term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1
 - limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8
- vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6

Livestock

- hours of work for laborers, Art. XII, sec. 2
- levies, special — authority for, Art. XII, sec. 1

Local government, Art. XI

- counties to be those existing at ratification of constitution, Art. XI, sec. 2
- debt limitations, Art. VIII, sec. 10; Art. VIII, sec. 11
- definition of "local government units", Art. XI, sec. 1
- ethics, code of — for officers and employees, XIII, sec. 4
- forms of government, Art. XI, sec. 3; Art. XI, sec. 6
- general powers, Art. XI, sec. 4
- initiative and referendum powers extended to electors, Art. XI, sec. 7; Art. XI, sec. 8
- intergovernmental cooperation, Art. XI, sec. 7
- investment of public funds, Art. VIII, sec. 13
- loan proceeds, use, Art. VIII, sec. 11
- revenue received or spent, strict accountability, Art. VIII, sec. 12
- self-government charters, Art. XI, sec. 5
- self-government powers, Art. XI, sec. 6
- sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law, Art. II, sec. 18
- taxation
 - appeal procedures for taxpayer grievances, Art. VIII, sec. 7
 - property tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5
- voter review of structure of government, Art. XI, sec. 9

Lotteries prohibited unless authorized by legislature or by people, Art. III, sec. 9**M****Marriage, validity or recognition, Art. XIII, sec. 7****Military affairs**

- civilian control, Art. II, sec. 32
- importation of armed persons, Art. II, sec. 33
- militia — call of forces, commander-in-chief, and composition, Art. VI, sec. 13
- preference to military personnel and veterans, Art. II, sec. 35
- quartering of soldiers in houses, Art. II, sec. 32

Minors entitled to all rights not specifically precluded by law, Art. II, sec. 14; Art. II, sec. 15**N****Naturalization power of district court, Art. VII, sec. 4**

Natural resources, Preamble

- coal severance tax, trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5
- cultural resources, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4
- harvest heritage, preservation, Art. IX, sec. 7
- noxious weed management trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 6
- protection and improvement, Art. IX, sec. 1
- reclamation of lands and resource indemnity trust, Art. IX, sec. 2
- water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3

Needy persons, economic assistance and social and rehabilitative services — provision for, Art. XII, sec. 3**Noxious weed management trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 6****O****Obligations, preexisting — unimpaired, Transition Schedule, sec. 6****Open meetings, Art. II, sec. 9**
legislature, Art. V, sec. 10**P****Pardons, governor's power, Art. VI, sec. 12****Perpetuities prohibited except for charitable purposes, Art. XIII, sec. 6****Popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1****Press, freedom of, Art. II, sec. 7****Privacy, right of, Art. II, sec. 9; Art. II, sec. 10****Privileges, special grant by law prohibited, Art. II, sec. 31****Property**

- eminent domain, just compensation required, Art. II, sec. 29
- estates — descent not jeopardized by treason, felony conviction, or suicide, Art. II, sec. 30
- homestead and exemption laws, Art. XIII, sec. 5
- perpetuities prohibited except for charitable purposes, Art. XIII, sec. 6
- private, preservation of harvest heritage — certain rights not created, Art. IX, sec. 7
- right of persons to acquire, possess, and protect, Art. II, sec. 3; Art. II, sec. 12; Art. II, sec. 17
- state liability for injury, immunity as provided by law, Art. II, sec. 18
- tax, Art. VIII, sec. 3 — 5
 - on transfer of, prohibited, Art. VIII, sec. 17

Protest of government action, right to, Art. II, sec. 6

Public Education, Board of, Art. X, sec. 9

Public lands

land commissioners, board of, Art. X, sec. 4

public school fund, proceeds from lands included in, Art. X, sec. 2

trust status and disposition, Art. X, sec. 11

Public officers

code of ethics, Art. XIII, sec. 4

oath of office, Art. III, sec. 3

Public participation in government, Art. II, sec. 8; Art. II, sec. 9: V, sec. 10

Public records, Art. II, sec. 9

secretary of state, custodian, Art. VI, sec. 4

water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3

Public retirement assets and investment of, Art. VIII, sec. 13; Art. VIII, sec. 15

R

Reclamation of lands, Art. IX, sec. 2

Recreational areas, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4

Redistricting and reapportionment of state into legislative and congressional districts, Art. V, sec. 14

Referendums, See Ballot issues

Regents of Higher Education, Board of, Art. X, sec. 9

Religion

appropriation for religious purposes prohibited, Art. V, sec. 11; Art. X, sec. 6

establishment by law prohibited and free exercise guaranteed, Art. II, sec. 5

nondiscrimination in education, Art. X, sec. 7

tax exemption for church property, Art. VIII, sec. 5

Reprieves, governor's power, Art. VI, sec. 12

Resource indemnity trust, Art. IX, sec. 2

Retrospective laws, Art. II, sec. 31; Art. XIII, sec. 1

Revenue and finance

accountability for revenue received and spent, Art. VIII, sec. 12

agriculture, levies for, Art. XII, sec. 1

anticipated, appropriations not to exceed, Art. VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9

appropriations, See Legislature

Revenue and finance (continued)

- budget, Art. VI, sec. 9
 - balanced, to be, Art. VIII, sec. 8; Art. VIII, sec. 9
- expenditures
 - appropriation and issuance of warrant required, Art. VIII, sec. 14
 - strict accountability, Art. VIII, sec. 12
- highway revenue non-diversion, Art. VIII, sec. 6
- indebtedness
 - loan proceeds, use, Art. VIII, sec. 11
 - local government, limitations, Art. VIII, sec. 10
 - state debt, limitations, Art. VIII, sec. 8
- investment of public funds and public retirement
 - system and state compensation insurance fund assets, Art. VIII, sec. 13
- livestock, levies for, Art. XII, sec. 1
- loan proceeds, use, Art. VIII, sec. 11
- taxation, See **Taxation**
- tobacco settlement trust fund, Art. XII, sec. 4

Rights

- criminal offenders, restoration upon termination of state supervision, Art. II, sec. 28
- declaration of, Art. II
 - creation for first time prospective and not retroactive, Transition Schedule, sec. 3
- inalienable, Art. II, sec. 3
- institutions, persons committed to, Art. XII, sec. 3
- preexisting rights and obligations unimpaired, Transition Schedule, sec. 6
- unenumerated rights not denied, impaired, or disparaged, Art. II, sec. 34

Right to know, Art. II, sec. 9**Riots**

- call of militia by governor, Art. VI, sec. 13
- importation of armed persons for preservation of peace or suppression of violence, Art. II, sec. 33

S

Scenic areas, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4

Schools, See Education

Scientific resources, preservation and administration, Art. IX, sec. 4

Seal of state, custodian, Art. VI, sec. 4

Searches and seizures, requirements, Art. II, sec. 11

- Seat of government in Helena**, Art. III, sec. 2
executive officers to reside at, Art. VI, sec. 1
- Secretary of state**, Art. VI, sec. 1, See also **Executive branch**
congressional district plans filed with, Art. V, sec. 14
duties, Art. VI, sec. 4
election, Art. VI, sec. 2
initiatives and referendums
election on, invalid — resubmission of issue, Art. IV, sec. 7
petitions filed with, Art. III, sec. 4; Art. III, sec. 5;
Art. XIV, sec. 2; Art. XIV, sec. 9
land commissioners, board of — member, Art. X, sec. 4
qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3
records of office, Art. VI, sec. 1; Art. VI, sec. 4
term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1
limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8
vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6
vetoed bills, poll of legislators, Art. VI, sec. 10
- Sectarian purpose**, aid for prohibited, Art. X, sec. 6
- Self-defense, right of**, Art. II, sec. 3; Art. II, sec. 12
- Self-government, right of**, Art. II, sec. 1; Art. II, sec. 2
- Self-incrimination**, compulsion prohibited, Art. II, sec. 25
- Separation of powers among branches of government**, Art. III, sec. 1
- Slander**, evidence and determination of issues, Art. II, sec. 7
- Sovereign immunity abolished except as provided by law**, Art. II, sec. 18
- Sovereignty**
indian lands, Art. I
popular sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 1
state sovereignty, Art. II, sec. 2
- Special improvement districts**, authorization, Art. VIII, sec. 5
- Speech**, freedom of, Art. II, sec. 7
- Speedy legal remedies guaranteed**, Art. II, sec. 16; Art. II, sec. 24
- State auditor**, Art. VI, sec. 1, See also **Executive branch**
duties, Art. VI, sec. 4
election, Art. VI, sec. 2
land commissioners, board of — member, Art. X, sec. 4
qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3
term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1
limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8
vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6

State Board of Education, Art. X, sec. 9

State compensation insurance fund assets, investment, Art. VIII, sec. 13

Suffrage, right of, Art. II, sec. 13, See **Elections**

Superintendent of public instruction, Art. VI, sec. 1,

See also **Executive branch**

duties, Art. VI, sec. 4

education, boards of — member, Art. X, sec. 9

election, Art. VI, sec. 2

land commissioners, board of — member, Art. X, sec. 4

qualifications, Art. VI, sec. 3

term of office, Art. VI, sec. 1

limitation, Art. IV, sec. 8

vacancy in office, Art. VI, sec. 6

Supreme court, See also **Judiciary**

district judges, assignment for temporary service, Art. VII, sec. 6

judicial standards commission, recommendations, Art. VII, sec. 11

jurisdiction, Art. VII, sec. 2

justices, See also **Judges and justices**

compensation and terms, Art. VII, sec. 7

qualifications, Art. VII, sec. 9

selection, Art. VII, sec. 8

organization, Art. VII, sec. 3

vesting of judicial power in, Art. VII, sec. 1

T

Taxation

agriculture, for, Art. XII, sec. 1

appeals, Art. VIII, sec. 7

coal severance tax, trust fund, Art. IX, sec. 5

consumer counsel, funding, Art. XIII, sec. 2

inalienable power to tax, Art. VIII, sec. 2

levy for public purposes, Art. VIII, sec. 1

livestock, for, Art. XII, sec. 1

property tax

administration by state, Art. VIII, sec. 3

equal valuation, Art. VIII, sec. 4

exemptions, Art. VIII, sec. 5

real property transfer, on—prohibited, Art. VIII, sec. 17

resource indemnity trust tax, Art. IX, sec. 2

sales tax or use tax rates, limitation, Art. VIII, sec. 16

special improvement districts authorized, Art. VIII, sec. 5

vehicle and fuel taxes, use, Art. VIII, sec. 6

- Tobacco settlement trust fund, Art. XII, sec. 4
- Towns, See Local government
- Treason, Art. II, sec. 30
- Trial by jury, right to, Art. II, sec. 24; Art. II, sec. 26

U

United States

- compact with united states not affected by new constitution, Art. I
- land grants, restrictions on disposition of, Art. X, sec. 11
- property, tax exemption, Art. VIII, sec. 5

University system, See Education

V

Veterans

- homes for care of, Art. XII, sec. 3
- preferential treatment, Art. II, sec. 35

W

War

- call of militia, Art. VI, sec. 13
- importation of armed persons, Art. II, sec. 33
- quartering of soldiers in houses, Art. II, sec. 32
- treason, as, Art. II, sec. 30

Water rights, Art. IX, sec. 3

Weapons, right to bear arms, Art. II, sec. 12

Writs, jurisdiction of

- district court, Art. VII, sec. 4
- supreme court, Art. VII, sec. 2

**DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE**

DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Declaration of Independence in its original form. This material was copied from the National Archives website (www.archives.gov).

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.—Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Georgia:

Button Gwinnett
Lyman Hall
George Walton

North Carolina:

William Hooper
Joseph Hewes
John Penn

South Carolina:

Edward Rutledge
Thomas Heyward, Jr.
Thomas Lynch, Jr.
Arthur Middleton

Massachusetts:

John Hancock

Maryland:

Samuel Chase
William Paca
Thomas Stone
Charles Carroll of Carrollton

DECLARATION OF
INDEPENDENCE

227

Virginia:

George Wythe
Richard Henry Lee
Thomas Jefferson
Benjamin Harrison
Thomas Nelson, Jr.
Francis Lightfoot Lee
Carter Braxton

Pennsylvania:

Robert Morris
Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin
John Morton
George Clymer
James Smith
George Taylor
James Wilson
George Ross

Delaware:

Caesar Rodney
George Read
Thomas McKean

New York:

William Floyd
Philip Livingston
Francis Lewis
Lewis Morris

New Jersey:

Richard Stockton
John Witherspoon
Francis Hopkinson
John Hart
Abraham Clark

New Hampshire:

Josiah Bartlett
William Whipple

Massachusetts:

Samuel Adams
John Adams
Robert Treat Paine
Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island:

Stephen Hopkins
William Ellery

Connecticut:

Roger Sherman
Samuel Huntington
William Williams
Oliver Wolcott

New Hampshire:

Matthew Thornton

**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Constitution in its original form. Bracketed language has since been amended or superseded.

This material was copied from the National Archives website (www.archives.gov).

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Section. 2.

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.

No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

[Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.] The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey

four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.

Section. 3.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, [chosen by the Legislature] thereof for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year; [and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies].

No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall chuse their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present.

Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the

United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law.

Section. 4.

The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of chusing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall [be on the first Monday in December], unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day.

Section. 5.

Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member.

Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal.

Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

Section. 6.

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under

the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been encreased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office.

Section. 7.

All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills.

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States: If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

Section. 8.

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

To provide and maintain a Navy;

To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Section. 9.

The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, [unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken].

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another; nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

Section. 10.

No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility.

No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection Laws: and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Controul of the Congress.

No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows:

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

[The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President.]

The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

[In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.]

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for,

and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Section. 2.

The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;[— between a State and Citizens of another State,]—between Citizens of different

States,—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.

Section. 3.

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

Article. IV.

Section. 1.

Full Faith and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of every other State. And the Congress may by general Laws prescribe the Manner in which such Acts, Records and Proceedings shall be proved, and the Effect thereof.

Section. 2.

The Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.

A Person charged in any State with Treason, Felony, or other Crime, who shall flee from Justice, and be found in another State, shall on Demand of the executive Authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having Jurisdiction of the Crime.

[No Person held to Service or Labour in one State, under the Laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in Consequence of

any Law or Regulation therein, be discharged from such Service or Labour, but shall be delivered up on Claim of the Party to whom such Service or Labour may be due.]

Section. 3.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the Jurisdiction of any other State; nor any State be formed by the Junction of two or more States, or Parts of States, without the Consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

Section. 4.

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion; and on Application of the Legislature, or of the Executive (when the Legislature cannot be convened), against domestic Violence.

Article. V.

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress; Provided that no Amendment which may be made prior to the Year One thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any Manner affect the first and fourth Clauses in the Ninth Section of the first Article; and that no State, without its Consent, shall be deprived of its equal Suffrage in the Senate.

Article. VI.

All Debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the Members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial Officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.

Article. VII.

The Ratification of the Conventions of nine States, shall be sufficient for the Establishment of this Constitution between the States so ratifying the Same.

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, the Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary

done in Convention by the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independance of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof

We have hereunto subscribed our Names,

G. Washington
Presidt and deputy from
Virginia
Delaware
Geo: Read
Gunning Bedford jun
John Dickinson
Richard Bassett
Jaco: Broom
Maryland
James McHenry
Dan of St Thos. Jenifer
Danl. Carroll

Virginia
John Blair
James Madison Jr.
North Carolina
Wm. Blount
Richd. Dobbs Spaight
Hu Williamson
South Carolina
J. Rutledge
Charles Cotesworth Pinckney
Charles Pinckney
Pierce Butler

Georgia
 William Few
 Abr Baldwin
New Hampshire
 John Langdon
 Nicholas Gilman
Massachusetts
 Nathaniel Gorham
 Rufus King
Connecticut
 Wm. Saml. Johnson
 Roger Sherman
New York
 Alexander Hamilton

New Jersey
 Wil: Livingston
 David Brearley
 Wm. Paterson
 Jona: Dayton
Pennsylvania
 B Franklin
 Thomas Mifflin
 Robt. Morris
 Geo. Clymer
 Thos. FitzSimons
 Jared Ingersoll
 James Wilson
 Gouv Morris

Amendments to the Constitution of the United States

Note: The following text contains a transcription of the first ten amendments to the Constitution in their original form. The first ten amendments were ratified December 15, 1791, and form what is known as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Amendment XI

Passed by Congress March 4, 1794. Ratified February 7, 1795.

Note: Article III, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 11.

The Judicial power of the United States shall not be construed to extend to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by Citizens of another State, or by Citizens or Subjects of any Foreign State.

Amendment XII

Passed by Congress December 9, 1803. Ratified June 15, 1804.

Note: A portion of Article II, section 1 of the Constitution was superseded by the 12th amendment.

The Electors shall meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; — the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted; — The person having the greatest number of votes for President, shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by states, the representation from each state having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. [And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice-President shall act as President, as in case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. —]* The person having the greatest number of

votes as Vice-President, shall be the Vice-President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of Electors appointed, and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice-President; a quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.

**Superseded by section 3 of the 20th amendment.*

Amendment XIII

Passed by Congress January 31, 1865. Ratified December 6, 1865.

Note: A portion of Article IV, section 2, of the Constitution was superseded by the 13th amendment.

Section 1.

Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XIV

Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified July 9, 1868.

Note: Article I, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of the 14th amendment.

Section 1.

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Section 2.

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United

States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age,* and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion, or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Section 3.

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Section 4.

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Section 5.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

**Changed by section 1 of the 26th amendment.*

Amendment XV

Passed by Congress February 26, 1869. Ratified February 3, 1870.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude—

Section 2.

The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XVI

Passed by Congress July 2, 1909. Ratified February 3, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 9, of the Constitution was modified by amendment 16.

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Amendment XVII

Passed by Congress May 13, 1912. Ratified April 8, 1913.

Note: Article I, section 3, of the Constitution was modified by the 17th amendment.

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, elected by the people thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State legislatures.

When vacancies happen in the representation of any State in the Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies: *Provided*, That the legislature of any State may empower the executive thereof to make temporary appointments until the people fill the vacancies by election as the legislature may direct.

This amendment shall not be so construed as to affect the election or term of any Senator chosen before it becomes valid as part of the Constitution.

Amendment XVIII

Passed by Congress December 18, 1917. Ratified January 16, 1919. Repealed by amendment 21.

Section 1.

After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2.

The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XIX

Passed by Congress June 4, 1919. Ratified August 18, 1920.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XX

Passed by Congress March 2, 1932. Ratified January 23, 1933.

Note: Article I, section 4, of the Constitution was modified by section 2 of this amendment. In addition, a portion of the 12th amendment was superseded by section 3.

Section 1.

The terms of the President and the Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January, and the terms of Senators and Representatives at noon on the 3d day of January, of the years in which such terms would have ended if this article had not been ratified; and the terms of their successors shall then begin.

Section 2.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall begin at noon on the 3d day of January, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

Section 3.

If, at the time fixed for the beginning of the term of the President, the President elect shall have died, the Vice President elect shall become President. If a President shall not have been chosen before the time fixed for the beginning of his term, or if the President elect shall have failed to qualify, then the Vice President elect shall act as President until a President shall have qualified; and the Congress may by law provide for the case wherein neither a President elect nor a

Vice President shall have qualified, declaring who shall then act as President, or the manner in which one who is to act shall be selected, and such person shall act accordingly until a President or Vice President shall have qualified.

Section 4.

The Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the House of Representatives may choose a President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them, and for the case of the death of any of the persons from whom the Senate may choose a Vice President whenever the right of choice shall have devolved upon them.

Section 5.

Sections 1 and 2 shall take effect on the 15th day of October following the ratification of this article.

Section 6. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission.

Amendment XXI

Passed by Congress February 20, 1933. Ratified December 5, 1933.

Section 1.

The eighteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2.

The transportation or importation into any State, Territory, or Possession of the United States for delivery or use therein of intoxicating liquors, in violation of the laws thereof, is hereby prohibited.

Section 3.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by conventions in the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXII

Passed by Congress March 21, 1947. Ratified February 27, 1951.

Section 1.

No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President,

or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once. But this Article shall not apply to any person holding the office of President when this Article was proposed by Congress, and shall not prevent any person who may be holding the office of President, or acting as President, during the term within which this Article becomes operative from holding the office of President or acting as President during the remainder of such term.

Section 2.

This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission to the States by the Congress.

Amendment XXIII

Passed by Congress June 16, 1960. Ratified March 29, 1961.

Section 1.

The District constituting the seat of Government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as Congress may direct:

A number of electors of President and Vice President equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a State, but in no event more than the least populous State; they shall be in addition to those appointed by the States, but they shall be considered, for the purposes of the election of President and Vice President, to be electors appointed by a State; and they shall meet in the District and perform such duties as provided by the twelfth article of amendment.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXIV

Passed by Congress August 27, 1962. Ratified January 23, 1964.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election for President or Vice President, for electors for President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in Congress, shall not be denied or abridged

by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay poll tax or other tax.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXV

Passed by Congress July 6, 1965. Ratified February 10, 1967.

Note: Article II, section 1, of the Constitution was affected by the 25th amendment.

Section 1.

In case of the removal of the President from office or of his death or resignation, the Vice President shall become President.

Section 2.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a majority vote of both Houses of Congress.

Section 3.

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a written declaration to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice President as Acting President.

Section 4.

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that no inability exists, he shall resume the powers and duties of his office unless the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive department or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit within four days to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the

Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thereupon Congress shall decide the issue, assembling within forty-eight hours for that purpose if not in session. If the Congress, within twenty-one days after receipt of the latter written declaration, or, if Congress is not in session, within twenty-one days after Congress is required to assemble, determines by two-thirds vote of both Houses that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall continue to discharge the same as Acting President; otherwise, the President shall resume the powers and duties of his office.

Amendment XXVI

Passed by Congress March 23, 1971. Ratified July 1, 1971.

Note: Amendment 14, section 2, of the Constitution was modified by section 1 of the 26th amendment.

Section 1.

The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.

Section 2.

The Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Amendment XXVII

Originally proposed Sept. 25, 1789. Ratified May 7, 1992.

No law, varying the compensation for the services of the Senators and Representatives, shall take effect, until an election of representatives shall have intervened.

INDEX TO
THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

References are to Article and Section Numbers
or to an Amendment Number

A

Admiralty, judicial power shall extend to all cases, III, 2

Age

house of representatives, members — qualification, I, 2,
president, qualification, II, 1

senate, members — qualification, I, 3

voting

age set to 18 years, Amendment 26

right denied when, effect, Amendment 14

Alliances, states shall not enter into, I, 10

Ambassadors, II, 2; II, 3; III, 2

Amendment of constitution, V

Appropriation of money

armies, for — not to be more than two years, I, 8

money not to be drawn from treasury without, I, 9

Armies

power of congress to raise and support, I, 8

president as commander in chief, II, 2

Arms, right to bear, Amendment 2

Arrest of senators or representatives, privileged from,
I, 6

Arsenals, authority of congress over places purchased for,
I, 8

Arts, useful — power of congress to promote, I, 8

Assembly and petition, rights of, Amendment 1

Attainder, bills of

congress, passage prohibited, I, 9

states, passage prohibited, I, 10

Attainder of treason, III, 3

Authors, exclusive rights to their respective writings —
power of congress to secure, I, 8

B

Bail, excessive — shall not be required, Amendment 8

Bankruptcies, uniform laws on — power of congress to
establish, I, 8

Bill of rights, Amendments 1 — 10

Bills — revenue bills, legislative process, and presidential
veto, I, 7

- Breach of the peace**, arrest of members of either house,
I, 6
Bribery, impeachment for, II, 4

C

- Capitation tax**, laid only in proportion to population,
I, 9; V
Census
direct or capitation tax to be laid in proportion to, I, 9; V
income taxes, congress to lay and collect without regard
to, Amendment 16
Citizens, 14
controversies, judicial power shall extend to — when,
III, 2
house of representatives, members — qualification, I, 2
president, qualification, II, 1
privileges and immunities, Amendment 14
senate, members — qualification, I, 3
state, of — privileges and immunities, IV, 2;
Amendment 14
vote, right to — not to be denied or abridged by race,
color, or previous servitude, Amendment 15
Civil office, officeholder as member of either house during
continuance in office prohibited, I, 6
Coinage of money
power of congress and power to regulate value, I, 8
states, prohibited, I, 10
Color, right to vote not to be abridged on account of,
Amendment 15
Commerce
ports of one state not to have preference over those of
another state, I, 9
power of congress to regulate, I, 8
Commissions
officers of united states, to, II, 3
vacancies, to fill, II, 2
Common law, civil cases — right of trial by jury,
Amendment 7
Compact or agreement, states not to make with each
other or foreign powers when, I, 10
Confederation
debts contracted by, validity, VI
states shall not enter into, I, 10
Congress, See also **House of Representatives**; **Senate**
appointment of officers, vesting by law, II, 2

Congress (continued)

- assembly once a year, Amendment 20
- citizenship rights, enforcement, Amendment 14
- composition, I, 1
- constitution, amendment, V
- convening and adjournment by president, II, 3
- election of members, regulations made or altered by law, I, 4
- income taxes, power to lay and collect, Amendment 16
- legislative powers vested in, I, 1
- limitations, I, 9
- liquor, prohibition — enforcement, Amendment 18
- meetings, time of holding, I, 4; Amendment 20
- poll tax or other tax, nonpayment — voting right not denied or abridged by, enforcement, Amendment 24
- powers of, I, 8
- president-elect or vice president-elect not qualified, provision for, Amendment 20
- presidential electors, time of choosing — determination, II, 1
- president, resolution of conflict over disability, Amendment 25
- press, freedom of — no law prohibiting, Amendment 1
- property of united states, rules and regulations respecting, IV, 3
- race, color, or previous servitude not to bar right to vote — enforcement, Amendment 15
- religion, congress shall make no law respecting establishment of or prohibiting free exercise of, Amendment 1
- resolutions, I, 7
- slavery and involuntary servitude, abolishment — enforcement, Amendment 13
- speech, freedom of — no law prohibiting, Amendment 1
- state of the union, president to give information concerning, II, 3
- states
 - laying of imposts or duties on imports or exports and laying duty of tonnage, keeping troops or ships of war, entering agreement or compact with another state or foreign power, or engage in war — consent required, I, 10
 - new states, admission to union and restrictions on formation, IV, 3
 - public acts, records, and judicial proceedings — manner in which proved prescribed by, IV, 1
- supreme court, jurisdiction — regulations, III, 2
- territories, rules and regulations respecting, IV, 3

Congress (continued)

- vice president, vacancy in office — confirmation of
nomination, Amendment 25
- voting age set to 18 years, enforcement, Amendment 26
- women's right to vote, enforcement, Amendment 19

Connecticut, number of representatives in first congress,
I, 2

Consuls, II, 2; III, 2

Contracts, laws impairing obligation — passage by states
prohibited, I, 10

Controversies, judicial power shall extend to, III, 3

Convention for

- amendment of constitution, V
- ratification of constitution, VII

Copyrights and patent rights, congress may grant, I, 8

Counterfeiting, power of congress to provide punishment
for, I, 8

Courts, inferior, See also **Supreme Court**

- appointment of officers, II, 2
- judges, III, 1
- judicial power of united states vested in, III, 1

Credit

- borrowing money on credit of united states, power of
congress, I, 8
- states not to emit bills of, I, 10

Crimes and criminal prosecutions

- accused, rights of
 - assistance of counsel, Amendment 6
 - information of nature and cause of accusation,
Amendment 6
 - speedy and public trial, Amendment 6
 - witnesses, confrontation and compulsory process for
obtaining, Amendment 6
- bail or fines, excessive — shall not be required or
imposed, Amendment 8
- capital or infamous, person held to answer for — how,
Amendment 5
- cruel and unusual punishment prohibited, Amendment
8
- double jeopardy prohibited, Amendment 5
- fugitives from justice shall be delivered up on demand,
IV, 2
- involuntary servitude as punishment, Amendment 13
- trial by jury, III, 2; Amendment 6
- voting right denied when, Amendment 14

Cruel and unusual punishment prohibited,
Amendment 8

D

Debt

- gold and silver coin only as tender in payment of, states to make, I, 10
- insurrection or rebellion
 - debt in aid of, not to be assumed, Amendment 14
 - suppression, debt for not to be questioned, Amendment 14
- power of congress to pay, I, 8
- preexisting, validity, VI
- public debt, validity not to be questioned, Amendment 14

Defense, common — congress may provide for, Preamble; I, 8

Delaware, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Departments

- appointment of officers, congress may vest in heads of, II, 2
- president, inability to serve — written declaration, Amendment 25
- written opinion from, president may require, II, 2

District of Columbia

- power of congress for exclusive jurisdiction, I, 8
- presidential vote for, Amendment 23

Dock yards, authority of congress over places purchased for, I, 8

Domestic violence, protection of states against, IV, 4

Double jeopardy prohibited, Amendment 5

Due process of law — persons not to be deprived of life, liberty or property without, Amendments 5; 14

Duties

- importation of persons, imposition, I, 9; V
- power of congress to lay and collect and requiring uniformity throughout united states, I, 8
- states
 - exports from any state, prohibited on, I, 9
 - imports, exports, or tonnage — shall not lay on, when, I, 10

E

Elections

- house of representatives, members, I, 2; I, 4;
Amendment 24
- judge of the election of its members, each house shall
be, I, 5
- president and vice-president, II, 1; Amendments 12; 24
- right to vote in, Amendments 14; 15; 19; 24
- senate, members, I, 3; I, 4; Amendments 17; 24

Eminent domain, just compensation, Amendment 5

Enumeration of the people

- capitation or direct tax to be laid in proportion to, I, 9
- income taxes, congress to lay and collect without regard
to, Amendment 16
- time for making, I, 2

Equal protection of the laws, Amendment 14

Establishment of constitution, Preamble

Excises, power of congress to lay and collect and requiring uniformity throughout united states, I, 8

Executive Branch, II

Executive power vested in president, II, 1

Exports from states

- imposts or duties on, state shall not lay on, I, 10
- tax or duty not to be laid on, I, 9

Ex post facto laws

- congress, passage prohibited, I, 9
- states, passage prohibited, I, 10

F

Felonies committed on the high seas, power of congress to define and punish, I, 8

Felony

- arrest of members of either house, I, 6
- fugitives from justice shall be delivered up on demand,
IV, 2

Fines, excessive — not to be imposed, Amendment 8

Foreign coin, power of congress to regulate value, I, 8

Foreign nations, commerce with — power of congress to regulate, I, 8

Foreign power, states not to enter into agreements or compacts with, I, 10

Foreign states, citizens, or subjects — controversies between states and citizens, judicial power extended to, III, 2

limits, Amendment 11

Forts, authority of congress over places purchased for, I, 8

Fugitives from justice shall be delivered up on demand, IV, 2

Full faith and credit to public acts, records, and judicial proceedings, IV, 1

G

Georgia, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Gold and silver coin only as tender in payment of debts, states to make, I, 10

Grand jury, presentment or indictment — persons held to answer only on, Amendment 5

H

Habeas corpus, writ of — suspension when, I, 9

High crimes and misdemeanors, impeachment for, II, 4

House of Representatives, I, 1, See also **Congress**
absent members, attendance compelled, I, 5
adjournment

from day to day, I, 5

more than three days or to any other place not allowed when, I, 5

president, by — when, II, 3

apportionment of members, I, 2; Amendment 14

arrest, members privileged from — when, I, 6

bills, legislative process and presidential veto, I, 7

civil office, appointment to — prohibited, I, 6

compensation of members, I, 6

increases, limiting, Amendment 27

composition, I, 2

convening by president, II, 3

election of members, I, 2; I, 4; Amendments 14; 24

expulsion of members, I, 5

impeachment, sole power of, I, 2

insurrection, participation — effect, Amendment 14

journal of proceedings, I, 5; I, 7

judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of members, I, 5

number of representatives, I, 2

oath of office, VI

officers, I, 2

House of Representatives (continued)

- president chosen by, when, II, 1; Amendments 12; 20
- punishment of members, I, 5
- qualifications of members, I, 2
- quorum, I, 5; Amendment 12
- rebellion, participation — effect, Amendment 14
- revenue bills, origination in, I, 7
- rules of proceedings, I, 5
- speaker of the house, I, 2; Amendment 25
- speech or debate by members not to be questioned in any other place, I, 6
- term of office of members, Amendment 20
- vacancies, filling, I, 2

I**Impeachment**

- conviction and judgment, I, 3
- house of representatives, sole power of, I, 2
- pardons, power of president does not extend to, II, 2
- removal of president, vice-president, and civil officers upon conviction, II, 4
- senate, sole power to try, I, 3
- trial by jury not allowed, III, 2

Importation of persons prohibited when and tax or duty imposed on, I, 9; V**Imports and exports, states shall not lay imposts or duties on — when, I, 10****Imposts**

- power of congress to lay and collect and requiring uniformity throughout united states, I, 8
- states, imports or exports — shall not lay on, when, I, 10

Incomes, tax on — power of congress to lay and collect, Amendment 16**Indians not taxed, exclusion in representative enumeration, I, 2; Amendment 14****Indian Tribes, commerce with — power of congress to regulate, I, 8****Inferior courts, See Courts, inferior****Insurrection**

- debt in aid of not to be assumed, Amendment 14
- public officials, participation — effect, Amendment 14
- suppression
 - debt for not to be questioned, Amendment 14
 - power of congress, I, 8

Invasion

- habeas corpus, writ of — suspension, I, 9
- protection of states against, IV, 4
- repelling, power of congress, I, 8

Inventors, exclusive rights to their respective discoveries
— power of congress to secure, I, 8

Involuntary servitude, abolishment and exception as
punishment for crime, Amendment 13

J

Judicial Branch, III

Judicial power of the United States, III, 1; III, 2
limits, Amendment 11

Jury

- accused, right to speedy and public trial by,
Amendment 6
- civil cases at common law, right to trial by,
Amendment 7
- grand jury, presentment or indictment — persons held
to answer only on, Amendment 5
- trial by, III, 2; Amendment 6

L**Land and naval forces**

- capital crimes, persons held to answer for,
Amendment 5
- power of congress to make rules for government and
regulation, I, 8

Land and water, captures on — power of congress to
make rules concerning, I, 8

Laws

- appointment of officers, for, II, 2
- bankruptcies, uniform laws on — power of congress to
establish, I, 8
- bills become, when, I, 7
- citizenship rights, enforcement, Amendment 14
- common law, civil cases — right of trial by jury,
Amendment 7
- compensation of senators and representatives, increases
— limiting, Amendment 27
- contracts, impairing obligation — passage by states
prohibited, I, 10
- due process of, Amendments 5; 14
- equal protection of, Amendment 14

Laws (continued)

execution of

powers of congress and government of united states
for, I, 8

president, II, 3

ex post facto laws

congress, passage prohibited, I, 9

states, passage prohibited, I, 10

judicial power shall extend to all cases, III, 2

liquor, prohibition — enforcement, Amendment 18

naturalization, uniform rule of — congress to establish,
I, 8poll tax or other tax, nonpayment — voting right not
denied or abridged by, enforcement, Amendment 24

press, freedom of — no law prohibiting, Amendment 1

race, color, or previous servitude not to bar right to vote
— enforcement, Amendment 15religion, congress shall make no law respecting
establishment of or prohibiting free exercise of,
Amendment 1slavery and involuntary servitude, abolishment —
enforcement, Amendment 13

soldiers, quartering of, Amendment 3

speech, freedom of — no law prohibiting, Amendment 1

states — for prescribing manner in which public acts,
records, and judicial proceedings are proved, IV, 1

supreme law of land, VI

trial by jury, place — for, III, 2

voting age set to 18 years, enforcement, Amendment 26

women's right to vote, enforcement, Amendment 19

Law and equity, judicial power shall extend to all cases in,
III, 2

limits, Amendment 11

Law of Nations, offenses against — power of congress to
define and punish, I, 8**Legislative Branch**, I**Legislative powers vested in congress**, I, 1**Liquor** — prohibition of manufacture, sale, transportation,
importation, or exportation, Amendment 18
abolishment of prohibition, Amendment 21**M****Magazines**, authority of congress over places purchased
for, I, 8**Maritime jurisdiction**, judicial power shall extend to all
cases, III, 2

Marque, letters of

power of congress to grant, I, 8

states shall not grant, I, 10

Maryland, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Massachusetts, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Migration of persons, prohibited when and tax or duty imposed on, I, 9

Militia

capital crimes, persons held to answer for,
Amendment 5

power of congress to provide for calling forth,
organization, arming, disciplining, and governing, I, 8
president as commander in chief of, when, II, 2

security of a free state, necessary to, Amendment 2

Ministers, public, II, 2; II, 3; III, 2

Money, I, 8; I, 9; I, 10

N

Naturalization

citizenship of naturalized persons, Amendment 14
uniform rule of, congress to establish, I, 8

Navy

power of congress to provide and maintain, I, 8
president as commander in chief, II, 2

New Hampshire, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

New Jersey, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

New York, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Nobility, titles of

states, not to be granted by, I, 10

united states, not to be granted by, I, 9

North Carolina, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

O

Officers of the United States

appointment, II, 2

commissions, II, 2; II, 3

oath of office, VI

removal from office, II, 4

vacancies in recess of senate, how filled during, II, 2

P

Pardons, power of president, II, 2

Patent rights, congress may grant, I, 8

Pennsylvania, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2

Piracies committed on the high seas, power of congress to define and punish, I, 8

Ports, preference shall not be given by regulation of commerce or revenue, I, 9

Post offices and post roads, power of congress to establish, I, 8

Powers

congress, of, I, 8

executive, vested in president, II, 1

legislative, vested in congress, I, 1

president, of, II, 2

reserved to the states and people when, Amendment 10

states, prohibitions, I, 10

Presidential electors, II, 1; Amendments 12; 14; 24

President of the United States

appointments by, II, 2

bills, legislative process and presidential veto, I, 7

compensation, II, 1

congress may be convened in extraordinary session by, II, 3

death of

 president-elect, provision in case of, Amendment 20

 president, successor, II, 1; Amendments 12; 25

disqualification, II, 4

election, II, 1; Amendments 12; 24

executive power vested in, II, 1

impeachment, subject to, I, 3; II, 4

inability to discharge duties, II, 1; Amendments 12; 25

oath of office, II, 1

pardons and reprieves, II, 2

powers and duties, II, 2

qualifications, II, 1

removal from office, II, 1; II, 4; Amendment 25

resignation, II, 1; Amendment 25

state of the union, information to congress concerning, II, 3

succession in case of death, provision for, Amendment 20

term limits, Amendment 22

term of office, II, 1; Amendment 20

veto power, I, 7

President of the United States (continued)

vice-president or vice president-elect

nomination of vice president, when, Amendment 25

president, shall act as — when, I, 3; II, 1;

Amendments 12; 20; 25

Press, freedom of, 1**Property**

persons not to be deprived of, without due process of law, Amendments 5; 14

private, not to be taken for public use without just compensation, Amendment 5

purchase of property in states by congress, consent by state legislatures, I, 8

united states, of — powers of congress, IV, 3

Public debt, validity not to be questioned, Amendment 14**Public lands, power of congress, IV, 3****Public money, statement and account of receipts and expenditures, I, 9****Public office, religious test not to be required as qualification, VI****Public officers**

insurrection or rebellion, participation — effect, Amendment 14

oath of office, VI

Punishment, cruel and unusual — prohibited, Amendment 8

R

Race, right to vote not to be abridged on account of, Amendment 15**Ratification of constitution, VII****Rebellion**

debt in aid of, not to be assumed, Amendment 14

habeas corpus, writ of — suspension, I, 9

public officials, participation in — effect, Amendment 14

suppression, debt for not to be questioned, Amendment 14

voting right denied, Amendment 14

Religion, congress shall make no law respecting establishment of or prohibiting free exercise of, Amendment 1**Religious test not to be required as qualification for office, VI****Reprieves, power of president to grant, II, 2**

Reprisal, letters of

power of congress to grant, I, 8

state shall not grant, I, 10

Republican form of government, united states shall
guarantee, IV, 4**Revenue bills, I, 7****Rhode Island and Providence plantations, number of**
representatives in first congress, I, 2**Rights**

bill of rights, Amendments 1 — 10

construction of constitution not to deny or disparage

others retained by people, Amendment 9

S**Science, progress of — power of congress to promote, I, 8****Search and seizure, requirements, Amendment 4****Seat of government of United States, I, 8**

presidential electors, certified lists of persons voted for
— to, II, 1; Amendments 12; 23

presidential vote for, Amendment 23

Senate, I, 1, See also Congress

absent members, attendance compelled, I, 5

adjournment

from day to day, I, 5

more than three days or to any other place not
allowed when, I, 5

president, by — when, II, 3

appointment of members when, I, 3; Amendment 17

appointments by president, advice and consent, II, 2

arrest, members privileged from — when, I, 6

bills, legislative process and presidential veto, I, 7

civil office, appointment to — prohibited, I, 6

classes, division into, I, 3

compensation of members, I, 6

increases, limiting, Amendment 27

composition, I, 3

convening by president, II, 3

election of members, I, 3; I, 4; Amendments 14; 17;
24; 27

expulsion of members, I, 5

impeachments, sole power to try, I, 3

insurrection, participation — effect, Amendment 14

journal of proceedings, I, 5; I, 7

judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of
members, I, 5

oath of office, VI

Senate (continued)

- officers, I, 3
- president of the senate, I, 3; II, 1; Amendment 12
- president pro tempore, I, 3; Amendment 25
- punishment of members, I, 5
- qualifications of members, I, 3
- quorum, I, 5; Amendment 12
- rebellion, participation — effect, Amendment 14
- resignation of members, I, 3
- revenue bills, amendment, I, 7
- rules of proceedings, I, 5
- speech or debate by members not to be questioned in
any other place, I, 6
- states, equal suffrage — not to be deprived of, V
- term of office of members, I, 3; Amendments 17; 20
- treaties, power of president — advice and consent, II, 2
- vacancies, how filled, I, 3; Amendment 17
- vice-president
 - elected by senate, when, Amendments 12; 20
 - president of senate, as, I, 3

Servitude

- involuntary, prohibited and exception, Amendment 13
- previous condition of, not to abridge right to vote,
Amendment 15

Slavery and slaves

- abolishment of slavery, Amendment 13
- fugitives from labor or service shall be delivered up,
when, IV, 2
- importation of persons prohibited when and tax or duty
imposed on, I, 9; V
- loss or emancipation of slaves, claims illegal and void,
Amendment 14

Soldiers, quartering of, Amendment 3**South Carolina, number of representatives in first
congress, I, 2****Speech, freedom of, Amendment 1****State of the union, president shall inform congress
concerning, II, 3****States**

- admission, IV, 3
- citizens, Amendment 14
 - privileges and immunities, IV, 2; Amendment 14
- commerce among, power of congress to regulate, I, 8
- constitution
 - amendments, ratification, V
 - ratification, VII

States (continued)

controversies, judicial power shall extend to — when,
III, 2

crimes

fugitives from justice shall be delivered up on
demand, IV, 2

trial by jury, III, 2

domestic violence, protection against, IV, 4

exports from

imposts or duties, shall not lay on, I, 10

tax or duty not to be laid on, I, 9

fugitives from justice and labor or service shall be
delivered up on demand, IV, 2

house of representatives — election, apportionment,
enumeration, number of representatives, and filling of
vacancies, I, 2; I, 4; Amendment 14

importation or migration of persons, prohibited when
and tax or duty imposed on, I, 9

invasion, protection against, IV, 4

legislatures

constitution, amendments to — application for or
ratification, V

domestic violence, application to united states for
protection, IV, 4

election of members, denial of right to vote — effect,
Amendment 14

election of senators and representatives — times,
places, and manner of holding prescribed by, I, 4;
Amendment 17

electors, appointment, II, 1; Amendment 23

new states, consent required for formation, IV, 3

oath of office, VI

property purchased by united states, consent for,
I, 8

liquor, prohibition — enforcement, Amendment 18

militia, appointment of officers and authority of
training, I, 8

new states, admission to union and restrictions on
formation, IV, 3

officers, executive and judicial — election, effect of
denial of right to vote in, Amendment 14

ports of one state not to have preference over those of
another state, I, 9

powers

prohibitions, I, 10

reserved to the states and people when,
Amendment 10

public acts, records, and judicial proceedings — full
faith and credit to be given, IV, 1

States (continued)

republican form of government guaranteed, IV, 4
senate, equal suffrage in — not to be deprived of, V
senators

 appointment when, I, 3

 election, I, 4

 two from each state, I, 3

supremacy clause, judges bound by, VI

taxes

 direct taxes, apportionment, I, 2

 exports from state, not to be laid on, I, 9

 income taxes, no apportionment among states,
 Amendment 16

Suffrage, See Elections**Supremacy clause, VI****Supreme Court, See also Courts, inferior**

 impeachment trial, chief justice to preside, I, 3

 judges, II, 2; III, 1

 judicial power of the united states vested in, III, 1

 jurisdiction, original and appellate, III, 2

 tribunals inferior to, power of congress to constitute, I, 8

T

Taxes

 capitation tax laid only in proportion to population,
 I, 9; V

 direct taxes

 apportionment, I, 2

 laid only in proportion to population, I, 9

 exports from any state, prohibited on, I, 9

 importation of persons, imposed on, I, 9; V

 income taxes, power of congress to lay and collect,
 Amendment 16

 poll tax or other tax, nonpayment — voting right not
 denied or abridged for, Amendment 24

 power of congress to lay and collect, I, 8

Territories, power of congress, IV, 3**Treason, III, 3**

 arrest of members of either house, I, 6

 conviction and punishment, III, 3

 fugitives from justice shall be delivered up on demand,
 IV, 2

 impeachment for, II, 4

Treaties

 judicial power shall extend to, III, 2

Treaties (continued)

- power of president with advice and consent of senate,
II, 2
- states shall not enter into, I, 10
- supreme law of the land, VI

Trial by jury, III, 2; Amendment 6

- accused to have speedy and public trial, Amendment 6
- civil cases at common law, Amendment 7

Tribunals inferior to Supreme Court, power of congress to constitute, I, 8**Troops, state shall not keep without consent of congress, I, 10****V****Veto, presidential, I, 7****Vice-President of the United States**

- election, II, 1; Amendments 12; 24
- president of the senate, as, I, 3
- president of united states, to serve as — when, I, 3;
II, 1; Amendments 12; 20; 25
- removal, death, resignation, or inability, II, 1; II, 4
- senate shall choose, when, II, 1; Amendment 20
- term of office, II, 1; Amendment 20
- tie vote on division of senate, I, 3
- vacancy in office, Amendment 25

Virginia, number of representatives in first congress, I, 2**Votes and voting**

- age set to 18 years, Amendment 26
- house of representatives, in choosing president, II, 1;
Amendment 12
- journal of proceedings of either house, entry, I, 5; I, 7
- presidential electors, II, 1; Amendment 12
- right to vote not to be abridged or denied,
Amendments 14; 15; 19; 24
- senators, one vote each, I, 3
- two thirds, required when
 - bills, for passage following reconsideration, I, 7
 - constitution, amendment — for, V
 - expulsion of members of either house, I, 5
 - impeachment, conviction, I, 3
 - insurrection or rebellion, participation — removal of
disability, Amendment 14
 - president, resolution by congress of conflict over
disability, Amendment 25
 - treaties, power of president — concurrence, II, 2
- vice-president of the united states, tie vote in senate,
I, 3

W

War

- capital crimes, persons held to answer for, Amendment 5
- declaration of, power of congress, I, 8
- ships of war, state may not keep when, I, 10
- soldiers, quartering of, Amendment 3
- states shall not engage in and exception, I, 10
- treason against united states, III, 3

Weights and measures, power of congress to fix standard, I, 8

Welfare, general, Preamble

- congress shall provide for, I, 8

Witnesses

- accused, confrontation, Amendment 6
- criminal cases, no person compelled to be witness against himself, Amendment 5
- treason, number necessary to convict, III, 3

Women's right to vote, Amendment 19

46th - 90th Legislative Days

Leg. Day — Date	Leg. Day — Date	Leg. Day — Date
Transmittal of Revenue- <u>Estimating Joint Res.</u>	Bill Draft Requests for Bills Proposing Referenda or <u>Committee Revenue Bills*</u>	Transmittal of Revenue Bills or Bills Proposing Referenda
60th Day — March 17	62nd Day — March 19	71st Day — March 30
Transmittal of Amendments to General Bills and Resolutions	Bill Draft Requests for Committee Bills Implementing General Appropriation Act*	Transmittal of Senate Amendments to <u>Appropriation Bills</u>
73rd Day — April 1	75th Day — April 4	80th Day - April 9
Transmittal of Amendments to Revenue Bills, Rev.-Estimating Joint Res., and Bills <u>Proposing Referenda</u>	Transmittal of Interim <u>Study Resolutions</u>	<u>Adjournment</u>
82nd Day — April 12	85th Day — April 15	90th Day — April 21

*Introduction deadline is 2 days after bill is received by requestor.

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